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Volume 18, Issue 13

THE UNDERGROUND

www.scar.utoronto.ca/homes/underground/

Tuesday, December 1, 1998

U of T finally recognizes the plight of the homeless. (See story on page 8...) *Tom Szpytek/UG*

Committee asks students to finance ARC

Kevin Jones
Staff

Early last week, the ARC Committee met with students for the first time to discuss their proposal for a new Academic Resource Center at Scarborough College. The first in a series of open forums, this meeting provided an opportunity for students and other interested parties to offer input into the state-of-the-art facility, one the Committee insists, will incorporate cutting-edge technology into our current educational resources. The forum also allowed the committee a chance to emphasize the importance of the ARC.

Tied into the issue of necessity was the question of funding. With the proposed plan, the Committee is asking the Scarborough College students to pay a $50 per year for five years, starting in the first year of construction. This levy would total $1 million, a number that will then be matched by the Principal's office. Though fifty dollars may seem like a small amount to some, there are those who worry that the levy will only add to the strain of rising tuition fees.

"In the past, it was always the students who made the difference in the success of these expenditures," says Tom Nowers, Associate Vice-Principal of Student Affairs.

Marla Miller, Head Librarian at the Vincent W. Bladen Library, agrees: "When the plans for renovations of the school were shelved in the past, it was the students who went down to Simcoe Hall and demanded that they be completed."

Liam Mitchell, a representative for the ARC Committee, had his own views: "it's either fifty dollars, or the ARC doesn't happen," he said, summing up the bottom-line of the levy.

The general consensus of the Committee is that people will be more likely to invest if they see that the students themselves support the idea.

Another issue that raised concerns is that those who are nearing the completion of their studies will theoretically, never see the completed facility. Some feel that they shouldn't be forced to pay for something they may never use. The Committee assures these students that the ARC will be open to alumni and graduate students wishing to continue their education at Scarborough College.

"We want both current students, faculty, the alumni, and, to a greater extent, the surrounding community to have a stake in the new facilities," says Nowers. The Committee also stresses the connection between the state of the school and students' degrees.

"We are really asking the students not for money, but for an investment in the future," adds the Associate-Vice Principal. Nowers points out that the school from which you graduate is just as important as the degree itself, and that if by chance your school should lose its standing, your degree will follow.

The Committee also recognizes the need for a student center, following suggestions that the lack of school spirit on campus is related to the lack of school facilities for clubs and student events. In response to this, the Committee feels that the best way to procure student

See **ARC**, *page 2*

Scarborough Campus won't have final say on Centennial deal

Brook Land-Murphy
Asst. News Editor

The real estate deal between Centennial College and Scarborough Campus came one step closer to completion with Centennial's preliminary visit to Scarborough's outer parking lot. Although Centennial made no offer, the deal appears to be approaching completion. "They're very interested," says Paul Thompson, Principal and Dean.

The fate of the deal depends on a provincial government grant that will ensure Centennial has enough funds to construct a new campus on the land.

"We're not making a proposal to them, so we're in waiting mode," saysTom Nowers, the Associate Vice-Principal of Student Affairs.

Although the ball is now in Centennial's court, Scarborough consolidated their position regarding the project. Scarborough now desires to rent the land on a 99-year lease.

"There was a time when the university was interested in sell-

See **DEAL**, *page 3*

NDP leader visits U of T

Charles Mitchell
News Editor

Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton spoke at a lunch held in his honor at Hart House last Wednesday . The occasion provided the Premier candidate with the opportunity to address various student concerns, most notably rising tuition costs.

He used the event to illustrate weaknesses in Mike Harris' income tax laws and to stress his commitment to a promised ten per cent rollback in university fees. The NDP leader and former Minister of Natural Resources asserted that the tax scheme now costs over six billion dollars a year to finance.

"Six billion dollars has to come out of health care. It has to come out of education. It has to come out of colleges and universities. It has to come out of your tuition fees," he explained to a small

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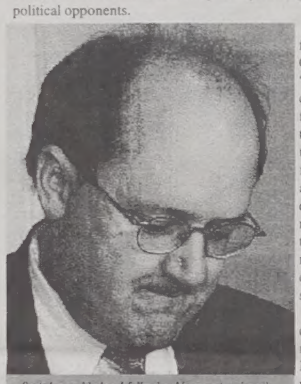
Apec inquiry in turmoil following Scott resignation

Alex Bustos
CUP - Ottawa

With the much-anticipated resignation of Solicitor General Andy Scott, opposition members of parliament are wondering what took so long and are renewing their calls for an independent body to replace the APEC inquiry.

After nearly two months of intense political pressure, Scott bowed to the prevailing winds in Ottawa. On Monday of last week he announced he was resigning as Canada's top cop. His exit, however, didn't put an end to political heat over the APEC affair.

"Why did the Prime Minister not fire the Solicitor General six weeks ago when it might have meant something?" Reform Party Leader Preston Manning asked during question period Monday. Prime Minister Jean Chretien replied by turning the tables on his political opponents.



Scott hangs his head following his recent resignation

"I did not fire the Solicitor General," he said, "because of the constant attack from the opposition he decided that it was too difficult for him to do all his work, and he decided to offer me his resignation." The government's explanation didn't wash with student leaders.

"People don't resign over nothing," said Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students. "This is a de facto admission of guilt [by Scott]." In his letter of resignation to Chretien, Scott said allegations he had prejudged the APEC inquiry had made his situation as solicitor general "untenable." But Scott once again denied he had tainted the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings into the actions of officers at last year's APEC conference in Vancouver.

"The fact is that I have never, and never would have, prejudged the outcome of the commission's inquiry nor interfered with its process," the embattled former minister said. Calls for Scott's resignation surfaced in October when New Democratic Party MP Dick Proctor said he overheard him discuss the APEC inquiry with a seatmate on an Oct. 1 flight from Ottawa to Fredericton.

According to Proctor, Scott said a police officer named Hughie

See **APEC**, *page 8*

Committee enables needed discussion

ARC *from page 1*

space is through the design plan of the ARC. There is hope that the addition of the project will free up areas such as vacant computer labs, which can be put to other uses.

"Our school has always been a leader in multimedia technology," asserts Miller, adding that Scarborough was among the first in North America to have an on-line card catalogue. "However," she continues, "we are currently one of the most underspaced libraries in Ontario."

The Committee argued that current trends in employment demand that graduates be knowledgeable in computer and multimedia technology. They noted that students in courses not directly related nor linked to computers will not take the time to learn how to use one and will be unpleasantly surprised when searching for employment.

When questioned about their focus on new media, the committee responded by stating the importance of advanced technology to the success of students.

"What happens when you walk out of class with an assignment in your hand, and you don't know how to find the resources, or you need an interesting way of presenting it?" asks Miller rhetorically. "That is what we want to help you with."

Students will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed resource center via a referendum in upcoming months.

Lina Guiter/UG

ARC steering commitee allowed students their say at an open forum

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NEWS

Hampton promises tuition cuts and loan forgiveness program

HAMPTON *from page 1*

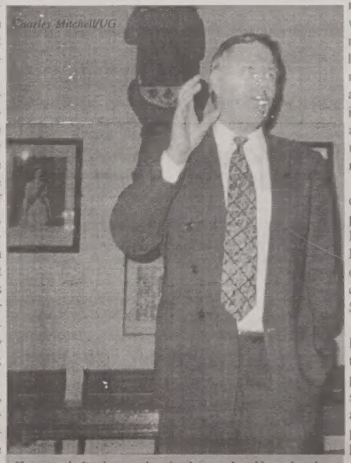
audience of mainly students.

The Premier hopeful opined that access to education is central to Canadian economic success and social cohesion. He shared his doubts about his opponents' commitment to more funding and access to education. According to Hampton, repealing tuition levels are contingent upon changes to provincial tax laws.

"You can't [reinvest in education] unless your willing to take some of that money back from the income tax scheme," said the former Minster of Natural Resources, who promised to procure the monies from the provinces most wealthy residents. This amounts to the 6 per cent of Ontario taxpayers that benefit mostly from the Harris tax scheme.

At current levels, the measure could disperse more than 1.5 billion dollars into the province. These funds could easily absorb the 140 million dollars a year it would take to roll back tuition levels. The NDP leader and current agriculture critic contends that the initial cut is only a first year commitment, adding, "We believe that we could work towards another ten percent reduction in the second or third year."

Hampton surmises that in the long run, no province can commit to education reforms without the help of the federal government. He concludes that with the aid of Chretien's office, his party can resolve the problem of student fees and student debt.



Charley Mitchell/UG

Hampton declined to use the micrphone as he addressed students.

SAC President, Chris Ramsaroop raised the issue of reviving provincial grants that the NDP Party itself discontinued in 1993.

"Do we want to restore grants?" The MP asked, answering "yes."

The NDP leader replied that it might be impossible to do so without participation at the federal level. He further explained that he would like to see no student graduate with a debt load of more than 10,000 dollars. His loan forgiveness program would affect not only incoming students, but those already enrolled in universities and even recent alumni.

"I do think he can do everything he promised," says Paul Kendal of the U of T NDP, the group that organized the event in cooperation with SAC.

Chris Ramsaroop praised the NDP for campaigning with a more student friendly agenda than the other parties, but the SAC President remains skeptical on whether Hampton can deliver the pledged ten per cent tuition rollback.

"It's possible. If he wins yes. But who knows if that's going to happen or not."

Ontario universities to receive $29-million in Fair Funding Grant

Dragi Dodevski
Staff

David Johnson, Ontario Minister of Education and Training announced in Toronto last week that students at Ontario universities will receive a $29 million Fair Funding Grant.

"The Fair Funding Grant addresses a historic funding inequity among the universities," said Johnson. These funds will enable qualifying universities to hire additional teachers for their undergraduate programs.

Smiling Dave gives universities their fair share.

The permanent increase of $29 million takes effect over the next three years. The fund proposes to "recognize the contribution of Ontario universities that have increased students' access to post-secondary education, and [have] enhanced their job opportunities," stated the Education Minister.

For a number of years, the level of grant and fee revenue per student in similar academic programs differed from university to university. The Fair Funding will provide some redress for this inconsistancy in university funding and help level the playing field in funding per student.

Universities that received relatively low levels of income per student will split the grant. The objective is to increase revenue per student up to a little more than $5,700. Only those institutions whose target falls below the required level will receive funds. This clause

See **FAIR FUNDING**, *page 7*

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Centennial pushing for collaboration on programs with University

DEAL *from page 1*

ing. It appears now that Professor Micheal Pinlayson's position has been adopted," says the Principal.

Scarborough College has limited input into the deal. All real estate agreements are conducted through U of T centrally, in consultation with the campuses. "I don't think they would do it over our objections," explains Thompson.

Should an agreement be reached, Scarborough College would receive a sum proportional to the overall university budget, which currently stands at 7 to 8 per cent of the sale revenue. Support is also mounting for an articulation agreement with Centennial.

"There are benefits to students for having such programs in limited areas," states the Principal. This is a marked contrast from his earlier concern that "having Centennial on our door-step might result in a confusion of identity."

Centennial's hopes of a future collaboration with the university is a motive for contemplating re-location to Scarborough's doorstep. That entails moving all of their high-end programs to the new campus, in hopes of attracting university graduates to their programs.

"They would like the possibility of university grads having access to their programs," says Thompson.

In certain fields, one-third of university graduates enroll in college courses to get the hands-on experience that they didn't receive at university. Community colleges have the facilities to provide this experience.

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All Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed and delivered to The Underground before noon, Friday. The length of the letters must be restricted to 200 words or less. The student's name and ID number must be included. Submission does not guarantee use.

Letters will be published on the basis of relevance and availability of space. The Editorial Board of The Underground reserves the right not to accept letters containing statements which could be construed as malicious or libelous. Material submitted will be edited at the discretion of the Board.

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The Man on the Bench

a fragment

He spoke on: "Indeed, the most destructive sin, the sin that reaches like a life-giving stem to all other forbidden fruits, so to speak, is most surely 'intoxication with the self.' Pride, vanity, personal humanism – ascribe unto it any number of titles. Self-love is the paramount disorder, the runaway machine, the ultimate merchandise. Self-love is a gateway drug.

"We are always greedy for more praise to tape to our walls or paste in our books, for the proverbial pat on our backs. We are envious of those who receive heaps of attention. We will initiate wars so that we can flourish in the spotlight, and those who criticize or condemn us will meet with rushed wrath. We are gluttons for approval, ever hungry to be recognized, to be influential, to be powerful (oh, what dreadful words). Pride leads to all the deadly sins. And those who lack self-love, who are instead self-loathing or who search for others to follow or admire, they are creatures, belly walkers, low, base, and defective.

"A perfect world, a utopia for every man, has every individual at the head of a table. A perfect world exists where we are all magnificent kings with legions of adoring peers. A perfect world exists where we all seek to praise each other. How ludicrous it sounds when it is thus presented. How ineffective a world that would be.

"Even you, with your busy hands, transcribing my very words with such sober eyes and weeping breaths. Even you are guilty of infecting the earth, however poetically, with your desire for attention. No. Let's remove the frills and bows, let's unwrap it all: you are guilty of seeking sheer worship. You'll take my message and weave into some glorious tapestry for your readers, who are all just as causative, to sit comfortably atop, to feel beneath their tender posteriors.

"With pride on your shoulder, you will be a dictator searching for a regime to command, to hold in your sturdy arms. You will surround yourself with metaphorical mirrors and bask in your many wondrous images, and this will be your sentence. Do not mislead yourself by thinking it grand. It will devastate you and leave you physically and intellectually numb."

"You preach all too well. But where is your justification? Why shouldn't we take pride in our achievements? Why shouldn't we bask in the acclamations of others?"

end of fragment

Limousine

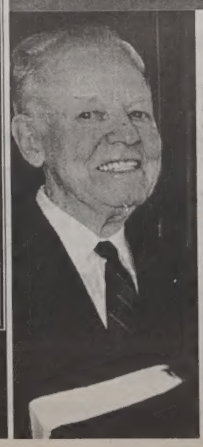
As I lounge safely in my plush, puffy armchair and fix my eyes on the bulbous screen, I lose my grasp on things. I float, as if weightless, as if empty of ideas, as if the world could just sift through me as easily as it could bowl me over. It is hard for me to find this state, this province of the afterthought. It requires an absolute lapse, a complete loss of feeling, if only for a moment. The green wall in the living room can do it to me. It can get me there and it can take me back, like some fantastical limousine. But this armchair never lets me down. When it holds me, I seem to surround everything. I seem to be here and there and across the way. It is a personal heaven that approaches and escapes so many others.

The telephone jars and kicks me, and in the mirror I notice my distinct complacent look.

Tim Soucie

Warning: Writing for The Underground may cause a long-term addiction

Flood City



A Tribute to Roy Hirons
Nov. 12, 1916 – Dec. 1, 1997

Who was Roy Hirons? Roy was an advisor for FOCUS and served as a chaplain at the Scarborough Campus U of T. Roy formerly served as a missionary for 35 years overseas.

Roy was a man of integrity, humility, wisdom and discipline. Surpassing all of these qualities was the love that Roy had for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is difficult to express in words how much of an asset he was to individuals around him as well as to the world in which he served. The following verses are an attempt to describe his character and also to remember a dedicated and faithful servant.

Memorial from: FOCUS (Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students) December '98

OPINIONS

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily correspond with those of The Underground

The Modern Day Slave Trade

The Angry Black Brother
Contributor

Professional football, basketball and baseball are the modern day slave trades. These institutions build their teams and their eventual success on the exploitation of poor black men that they lure out of ghettos with promises of white man's dreams. The black man has little choice when he's trapped in poverty. Faced with a society that tells you that the only way to make it is to train for a sport and not train your mind, the black man has been manipulated by the agents who themselves are auctioneers. Priming these men like cattle and then selling them like Kunta Kinte to the highest bidder.

These sporting teams are plantations that exploit these men. They make them work through injury, problems and even against their families will. Coaches are nothing more than overseers, keeping these men in line with promises of big cash and big fame. Yes I do acknowledge that these black sports stars make a lot of money. But what is a lot of dough compared to the owners of these of teams who are in fact plantation owners. What the black men earns working is like comparing the wages of sharecropper to the landowner.

Now what do these black sporting stars do with all this money? Do they try to inspire their own brothers to break the cycle, educate their minds, and become the owners instead of the slaves? No, what these slaves instead do is parade around in a car full of women and a neck full of gold chains. The chains may be made of gold but they are still wrapped tightly around the black man's neck just like the shackles that were used to pull African's into slave ships.

And then these modern day field niggers sell their souls for endorsements. Promoting breakfast cereal, running shoes or hot dogs; anything the white massa tells him to. These corporations owe nothing to these black men; they are simply tools like machetes used to chop sugarcane on nineteen-century sugar cane plantations. Perhaps these black athletes just don't understand that no matter how much they make they are still expendable to these companies and can replaced by another dumbass brother. That's right, mess up, and massa will drop you and put you right back on the auction block. I believe they call these free agents. Free at last, not quite yet and it's this inequality that makes me one angry black brother.

No point in remembering?

Deborah S. Ball
Contributor

This is in response to Gaspar Queiroz who wrote the opinion article "Remembrance Day: A Big Hypocrisy." I have to agree with you that the First World War was a horrific and senseless thing in itself. I must say, however, that I was saddened by your point of view on the matter. That on Remembrance Day we "celebrate a senseless massacre that happened 80 years ago."

Firstly, Remembrance Day encompasses ALL of WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and for many, the wars in Vietnam and the Gulf. While the focus has been on the two World Wars, that does not make Remembrance Day such a seemingly ancient cause.

It is true that many millions died in these wars. Soldiers and civilians. Gaspar, you have many good arguments about WWI showing it was based on a government power struggle. But let's not get lost on that. The very purpose of Remembrance Day is not a celebration and it is not for the politicians. It is a memorial service for those who DID lose their lives, who DID fight—whether or not 80 years later someone named Gaspar Queiroz slept in bed at 11 am and thought the whole thing was junk.

IT HAPPENED. Whether they were senseless and cruel or valiant and courageous, people like you and me died in these wars in some of the largest numbers known to humankind.

Another thing that has always been mentioned in the services I have attended is the hope that we can learn from these events, help them not to occur again. Politicians will always be politicians. There is no helping that. But, if there is a change in global perspective due to the publicity of these wars—and I think there has been—then, perhaps, humanity has a chance.

On Remembrance Day, I think of my Grandfather. With pride I must admit—I hope you will allow me that, Gaspar. He came out of the boats in Normandy on D-day. Many readers have probably seen the horror of that in the movie *Saving Private Ryan*. My grandfather LIVED through that. That alone fills me with awe.

So please, when you think of Remembrance Day, don't think of the political "hypocrits" with their "crocodile tears." LEARN from them and, instead, think of those who died, who lost loved ones, who witnessed the horror and the torture. Think of the people who lost their homes and their livelihood worldwide.

Perhaps next time that bugle calls and you see those uniforms decked out with medals, you too will shed tears and know the REAL meaning behind Remembrance Day.

The Impersonal Nature of Resolving Exam Conflicts

Meri Dolevski
Contributor

Sorting out problems of final exam conflicts or consecutive final examinations can be a pain. Every student's exam conflict is resolved in the same way by the Assistant Secretariat: write one of the exams in another time slot on the same day. The Assistant Secretariat is usually not aware of other factors relating to each individual. Without a context, how can the Assistant Secretariat know the best solution to resolving an exam conflict?

Suppose you are faced with final exams in three courses. You are doing well in two of these courses, but not so well in another course because of a poor performance on a term test. Your sympathetic professor mentions that your final grade in the course will be your two term tests and the grade on the final in their relative weightings originally outlined, or your grade on the final exam, whichever is greater. You, because of the poor term test, are now extremely dependent on the final. Your professor knows that you understand the material well and believes you can perform well on the final exam.

The three course mid-terms are scheduled in three consecutive time-slots, which happen to be afternoon, evening, and morning. Unfortunately, the critical exam, the one that will determine your entire grade, is in the evening slot. The Assistant Secretariat, however, schedules the last of the three consecutive examinations in the following time-slot, when the exam in that course is a less critical one.

The relative location of the consecutive examinations also needs to be factored. A case of consecutive exams early in the examination period is worse than three consecutive examinations later on. An early consecutive test period is more difficult because some students have end-of-term papers. With three or more essays due at end of term (even if a student does not delay the writing the paper), consecutive examinations early in the final exam period, one of which is extremely critical, one might understand that the odds of doing well on the critical exam drop sharply. The Assistant Secretariat does not care about this.

One way of resolving the problem of treating exam conflicts and consecutive examinations as if every situation were identical is to leave the responsibility between the student and the instructors in question. The Assistant Secretariat may see a particular student once a year, if that often. Professors see most students at least once a week, and more often if the student has other courses with certain instructors or multiple lecture sessions. Many professors get to know certain students on a more personal level and make themselves aware of the student's various situations.

Unlike the Assistant Secretariat, most professors have a context in which to consider the problem. The professors who know you reasonably well would be more likely to find a solution that satisfies you and them. The job of sorting out examination problems should not be left between students and the Assistant Secretariat, but rather, the student and the professors in question.

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NEWS

Motion supporting de-privatization of student loans denied

Zoë Cook
Contributor

A motion regarding the de-privatization of student loans was defeated in parliament, late November. This bill (M-132) originally put forward by Libby Davies, MP for Vancouver-East, in May, was voted out 218 to 35 by the members of the House of Commons.

Davies, also a post-secondary education critic for the NDP, believed that her motion would have encouraged more much-needed discussion regarding student loans and the enormous debts associated with them. Davies stated that her resolution would have helped "reverse the privatization of those loans, support national grants and establish accessibility as a national standard for post-secondary education."

The privatization of student loans has been an area of debate since 1995 when the Liberal government gave financial institutions greater responsibility in the area of student assistance. Before this time, student loans, though processed through banks, were fully guaranteed by the federal government. Now, the government no longer guarantees student loans, resulting in more aggressive collection techniques being employed by the banks.

Many students find themselves in serious financial debt after taking on these private loans. Those desperate for money to attend school, often pay 11 or 12 per cent interest on their student loans, a rate far above the prime. Due to the inflexibility of the banks to renegotiate loan terms, thousands of students have found themselves unable to make payments and in a situation where they could declare bankruptcy.

Davies failed to get bill passed

Davies feels that banks view these loans as "commercial propositions" and they are not taking the students' precarious situation to heart. Davies further asserts that these financial institutions are "profiting from the privatization of student loans". In the meantime, students find themselves struggling to stay afloat.

The motion for the proposal would have affected the entire country had it been supported. The motion included an appeal for the instigation of a federal student grant program and a restoration of this year's funding cut of $550 million. It was knocked down in parliament by most members of the Liberal, Reform and Bloc Quebecois parties.

Though the motion has been denied, Davies remains involved with the fight against student debt and private loans. "Post-secondary education should be a right not a privilege for only those who can afford it," she said recently.

A motion to repeal a provision of the Bankruptcy Act has been organized. This provision prevents students from declaring bankruptcy until ten years after they have graduated from a post-secondary institution. This had been a change from the previous two-year waiting period. Many believe the provision to be unfair and discriminatory, as students are the only social group who must wait this period of time.

Davies states that she is "committed to working against student debt" and to ensuring that there is "adequate funding for post-secondary education."

Finance Minister gets honorary degree amid student protests

Craig Segal
CUP - Montreal

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin was welcomed by Concordia University students at a recent graduation ceremony despite widespread opposition to his honorary degree. The university conferred an honorary doctorate in law to Martin on late November while a small group of students protested outside.

The decision to grant Martin an honorary degree has been criticized by student leaders, who say his government is responsible for massive cuts to post-secondary education and social programs, since it was made public a few weeks ago.

While Martin delivered the ceremony's keynote address, students stood outside the auditorium with a banner depicting a pig in a three-piece suit with money stuffed into its pockets under the words: Paul Martin, Pay Your Taxes.

"Everybody knew that Concordia students were angered by this," said Rob Green, Vice-President Administration with the University's Student Union, which voted against awarding Martin an honorary degree." One thing, definitely, is that the administration will think twice about honoring such a person again."

The student union had also condemned the move to honour Martin because he is a sitting politician. But Martin appeared unruffled by student opposition to his award, saying he felt well received by students at the graduation ceremony.

"Well, the fact is that there were a lot of students in that audience today and I certainly thought that the reception that I received was very warm and it is one that I very, very much appreciate," Martin said.

Concordia administrators had nothing but kind words for the Finance Minister. Rector Frederick Lowy praised Martin for balancing the budget and beginning the arduous task of reducing the national debt. He also highlighted areas for improvement in Canada's post-secondary education system.

"Canada still remains only in sixth position among the G7 countries in percent of the gross domestic product devoted to research and development," he said, noting Martin set aside $800 million for research and development in 1997.

Lowy also asked Martin to increase student bursaries and allow Quebec more control over its share of the $2.5 billion Millennium Scholarship Fund.

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Visit Our Website: http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/depts/residence/

NEWS

Spirit Day: A Feeling Of Unity

Natasha Marshall
Staff

Scarborough Campus Students Council (SCSC) held a spirit day last week in the Meeting Place to bolster school pride and to let undergraduates vent stress while having a few laughs.

This is the first such SCSC event of the year, but there is another one scheduled for next semester. However, members of SCSC want to make school spirit an everlasting concept and not a matter of distinct spurts throughout the academic year. Whether, they promote this through giving out free prizes during pub nights or letting the Scarborough mascot walk around the halls and handing out candy.

Members of the student council stressed the importance of community involvement and student interaction. Maknun Khan, Vice President of Administration, states, "We just wanted to have as many people to come out and take part...a lot of time, students don't get involved in their school's [extra-curricular activities] because they are really stressed out and they need an outlet."

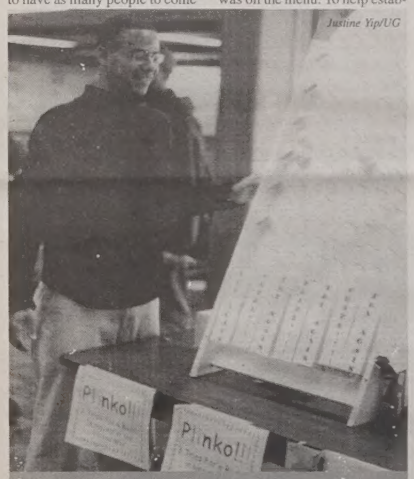
Justine Yip/UG
Two heavyweights battle it out

Spirit day provided this release through the events of sumo wrestling and plinko. Various prizes were handed out for student participation, and pizza was on the menu. To help establish a community atmosphere some proceeds from the activities were donated to a community charity. Khan explains: "Half of our proceeds will be donated to the United Way in hopes to enforce the community feeling at Scarborough."

Although this event was well attended, some members of the student council hoped for better results.

Isma Javed, the Second-Year Representative, explains, "it was really successful, a lot of students came out and stopped by, [but] we were hoping for a bigger turnout."

Furthermore, Asher Chohan, the Fourth Year Representative, points out that "based on how many people were going by the Meeting Place and the time of day it was, I would say it was a pretty good turnout." However, Javed remains optimistic about future Spirit Days: "This was our first one [of the year]. We have another one [coming], and it will be a little bit more successful because people will know what to expect."

Justine Yip/UG


Plinko Champion - Scarborough district

SAC tries to lift student morale

Lisa Gardner
Asst. News Editor

An array of activities took place downtown last week, marking SAC's customary Spirit Week. The Council tried to move away from the traditional "academic style" base to a "non-academic style."

"We tried to focus on the fun stuff," said Sommer Dhun, Promotion Commissioner for SAC, who aided in organizing the events. "There was a lot of spirit created and amusement that day," she said.

The festivities began with sumo wrestling, music and giveaways on Monday. Day two was deemed Random Acts of Kindness Day where students competed for prizes through comparing acts of courtesy they performed that day, while the "Blue Crew," a school-spirited group promoting SAC services, paraded around campus giving out candy to kind people.

"I'm so happy we included this event…lots of students came out and it was a lot of fun," says Dhun, who adds that the event had never been implemented before.

SAC held a BBQ on where an estimated 100 students came out to familiarize themselves with their SAC representatives. "We ran out of food!" exclaimed Dhun, who feels that the turnout was largely due to the diverse styles of music played at the event.

Various small activities took place in and around campus on Anti-Corporate Day Thursday, and SAC ended the week by holding a party at the HangaR on Friday.

Andrea Moffat, Vice President of SAC, concludes that although she was impressed with the organization of the events, perhaps "it would have been more successful if there was more board support. Not many members showed up and that's disappointing."

Dhun feels that the week was a success overall but "the bouncy castle should have been implemented. A lot of students would have enjoyed it."

Andrea Moffat: "Not many board members showed up and that's disappointing."

Millions in grants does not include U of T

FAIR FUNDING *from page 3*

would leave the University of Toronto out of the recipient list. U of T revenue levels remains above this targeted number. However, this does not affect U of T's grants, which will not see a reduction.

The universities sharing the funds include: Brock, Guelph, Lakehead, Laurentian, Nipissing, Ottawa, Queen's, Trent, Western, Wilfrid Laurier, York, and the Ontario College of Art and Design. These institutions must submit a five-year plan showing the annual increases in the number of faculty teaching undergraduate courses.

This plan will also provide details on projects to improve the quality of teaching, including enhancing professional development programs.

The proposal will still include primary responsibilities of instructing, and standard accepted preparation time and scholarship time needed to keep up-to-date in the field. Confirmation of successful implementation of the plans will be required in order for these increases to be added to the institutions funding on a permanent basis.

The Fair Funding grant will not affect the current basic help that the universities receive. The monies used to provide more equitable levels of funding will be the basis for university operating grant transfers.

SNOWSTORM INFORMATION LINE

Want to know if classes are cancelled?
Want to know if the University is closed?

For St George Campus call:
(416) 978-SNOW (7669)

For Erindale Campus
call Erindale Snow Hotline:
(905) 828-5399 and press 1

For Scarborough Campus
call Scarborough Snow Hotline:
(416) 287-7026

A decision to cancel classes or to close the University will only be taken under the most severe weather conditions.

NEWS

Positive Space campaign relaunched

Mezba Uddin Mahtab
Contributor

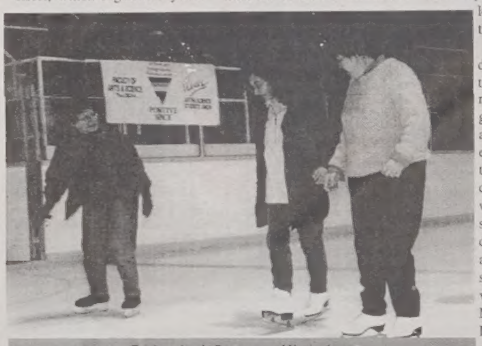
The Positive Space Campaign, a project that fosters understanding for sexual minorities at the University of Toronto, was relaunched last week. The effort, which began four years ago, promotes a welcoming environment for U of T's gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered, while generating discussion about sexual diversity. A Varsity stadium skating party Friday unveiled newly designed print material - stickers, posters and brochures.

"Our first launch was extremely successful," Rona Abramovitch, the Status of Women Officer at U of T, explains. "We received many requests for stickers, posters and print material, so to renew awareness and promote ideas, we decided to relaunch the project."

In addition to more informative brochures, stickers, the new look of the project also includes workshops to discuss gay issues and counseling services. Gay-bashing crimes have been on the increase in North America for the last few years. Lovis Charpentier, a senior member of the administrative staff cited the case of Matthew Shepard's murder. The victim was a 21-year old Political Science student at the U of Wyoming who happened to be gay. Two men, posing as homosexuals lured Matthew out of the campus bar and kidnapped him. After torturing him for some time, they then tied him to the split-rail fence, where he hung, bruised and broken for almost eighteen hours in near-freezing temperatures before he died.

According to Charpentier, there was still a lot of work. Although U of T has taken a positive initiative to bring more success to gay rights, more effort is needed to promote education at a high school level.

David Rayside, Professor of Political Science, explains, "after Shepard's murder, now more than ever, we can't be complacent about gay, lesbian and bisexual equality. Ensuring homosexual and bisexual visibility on campus is a continuing challenge, but I am optimistic about the future."



Tracing triangle figures around Varsity Arena

Varsity Arena was decorated with rainbow triangles, a nationally recognized symbol of gay rights. The triangle arose when gay prisoners in Nazi concentration camps and "anti-social" women - lesbians - were forced to wear such black triangles to display their homosexuality. U of T faced its share of anti-sexual diversity crimes recently. Messages such as "Gays Positively need Christ" sprung up around St. George campus, in addition to defacing of posters and banners of the Positive Space.

Bonte Minnema, of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered of U of T (LGBTout), says the project generated an increase in tolerance for gays on campus.

"It's an official project. It would be good for this to be included as part of student services too. Some people still call names to gays and create difficulties for them. We've still a long way to go, but the Positive Space project is a good start in the right direction."

University faces homeless situation

Niki Pappas
Contributor

Perhaps partly due to federal and provincial cutbacks, there has been a large influx of homelessness and poverty hitting Toronto streets. People are losing their homes, or simply cannot afford to buy one at all due to the lack of affordable housing. Men and women end up having nowhere to go except the streets of Toronto. Homelessness and poverty remains a problem around U of T including Scarborough. This is the first year that that the seriousness of the problem has been acknowledged and examined.

Will take sparechange or a warm cup of coffee

"First we have a social responsibility to take care of and better our society," says Chris Ramsaroop, SAC President.

SAC's concerns lean towards U of T students and homeless in the community. The Governing Council met recently at the Scarborough campus to debate action about this problem. Members discussed the concept of giving aid to those in need and decided that the situation required rectifying.

Those concerned, brainstormed countless ideas including a clothing and blanket drive, and putting out an urgent call to all of the U of T community members to volunteer and help in either campus or non-campus initiatives. In addition, the possible postponement of demolition of a St. George residence that could be utilized for affordable housing and perhaps emergency shelters. Another idea offered was the implementation of food trucks which could make stopovers at The DailyBread Food Bank. The possibility of establishing a U of T mentorship program was discussed.

Ramsaroop strongly believes that by working together these programs will succeed.

"The university is at a time of critical analysis where we as students and faculty must challenge the status quo to ensure that the discrepancy that exists between the haves and have-nots is eliminated."

Release of APEC report not a sure thing, solicitor general says

Alex Bustos
CUP - Ottawa

Canadians may never get a chance to read the final report of the APEC inquiry, the newly appointed Solicitor General said last week.

"The report is given to me, and then I will decide whether it will become public or not," said Lawrence MacAulay, barely 24 hours after being assigned to the post left vacant by Andy Scott, who resigned last week Monday under the heat of allegations he prejudged the APEC investigation.

"What I want to happen is to have the [RCMP] Public Complaints Commission do their job and submit their report to me, and then I'll deal with [the report]," MacAulay said outside the House of Commons.

MacAulay settles in as Solicitor General

MacAulay's remarks caught some members of parliament offguard.

"When you call something the public complaints commission it's a little hard to think it wouldn't by made public," said New Democratic Party MP Dick Proctor outside the House. "It's hard to imagine why the new solicitor general would say that."

Others said MacAulay's statement highlighted the need for an independent judicial inquiry to replace the RCMP Public Complaints Commission hearings, which are looking into whether officers used excessive force against protesters at last year's Asia Pacific summit in Vancouver.

"When the Public Complaints Commission does report, it goes to the commissioner of the RCMP and the Solicitor General," Conservative Party MP Peter MacKay said.

"What they do chose to do with it is completely done behind closed doors. They're not under any obligation to make it public. They're not under any obligation to even act on what the commission reports," he said. MacKay also said an independent investigation is needed because the current inquiry has no mandate to investigate the government. For months, opposition parties and students have accused the Prime Minister's Office of ordering the Mounties to quell APEC student protesters at the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders. "As has been pointed out time and time again this commission is not the proper forum to look at political interference," said MacKay. "And political interference is what is at very base of these questions [over APEC]."

The Prime Minister, however, told the House that he would co-operate with the APEC inquiry if asked.

Parliament calls for independent body to replace inquiry

APEC *from page 2*

(assumed to be RCMP Staff Sgt. Hugh Stewart) would be found guilty of using excessive force against student protesters at the APEC conference. Opposition MPs said the alleged comments proved Scott had prejudged the inquiry - a charge the government has steadfastly denied for more than a month and a half. But two weeks ago the Liberal line was weakened when New Brunswick lawyer Frederick Toole, Scott's seatmate on the infamous flight, filed an affidavit confirming Proctor's record of the conversation. Conservative Party MP Peter MacKay said Scott's resignation didn't lift the cloud of suspicion hanging over the troubled APEC hearings.

"The [APEC] commission itself is still being challenged by the RCMP," MacKay said outside the House. "They're saying they don't have confidence in the panel."

Late last month allegations surfaced that Gerald Morin, who chaired the inquiries, had prejudged the hearings by telling a friend that the police overreacted during the meeting of 18 Pacific Rim leaders.

Volume 18, Issue 13

COLUMNS

Chain Killings

Karen Heath
Staff

Before I begin to discuss the issues I have with the killers of abortion doctors, let me lay out some boundaries on the issue. Firstly, abortion is not illegal. There is no law in the criminal code stating that an abortion is a criminal offense. Personally, I am pro-choice. I believe a woman can have an abortion if she wants one, or she can choose to carry her baby to term. No one should be able to tell her what to do one way or the other. I believe that it is her choice, and her choice alone, to either have the baby or end her pregnancy.

I understand people who are pro-life, and I can see where they are coming from. But I don't understand the extremists. I especially do not understand those extremists who resort to violence, specifically the ones who resort to murder.

I recently read that across North America, violence against abortion providers and their facilities has doubled since last year. The most recent outburst of violence was the shooting death of an abortion provider in Buffalo. But, it is not just the U.S. which is faced with this problem. Three Canadian abortion providers have been shot as well.

Does it help stop abortions to go out and shoot an abortion doctor?

Who should decide whether abortions should be legal or illegal? I will tell you who should decide. In my eyes it should be a piece of legislation passed through the House of Commons and the Senate. But, apart from that, no one has the legal right to go out and shoot a person, regardless of whether he or she provides abortions. That, according to the Canadian Criminal Code is murder.

BURN, BABY, BURN!
COME TO THE UNDERGROUND'S DEVILISH DISCO INFERNO ON JANUARY 28TH!

EVEN THE BEE GEES WILL BE THERE...IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER

GOOD-BYE BALDNESS

Vernon Appadoo
Contributor

In an attempt to by-pass some tedious research, I asked my brother what I should write about this week. He aptly replied, "Don't bore them with your science jargon. Write about something interesting like balding or impotence." I took his advice. Since my first article was about Viagra, I dedicate this article to the latest advancements in hair loss research.

An estimated 30 million American men suffer from hair loss. With a little luck in the follicle department, this number may soon drop. Researchers from the University of Chicago are experimenting with a compound that induces hair follicle formation in mice. Follicle formation is a once-in-a-lifetime event that only occurs in embryonic stage of human development. The molecule beta-catenin causes embryonic cells to become hair follicles. If applied to adult epithelial cells, it can also cause them to revert to an embryonic state, where once again they have the ability to become a hair follicle.

The genetically engineered mice used in the experiment became exceptionally hairy. The mice produced an endless supply of beta-catenin, and as a result benign tumors formed. Researchers acknowledge that too much of a good thing is bad in this case. They are intent on finding how to express beta-catenin in cells until hair follicles are formed, and then to turn off the mechanism in order to prevent tumor formation. It is hoped that this research could lead to cures for baldness.

But in the meantime, we have a variety of lotions and potions that claim to treat hair loss. Only a few have credible research to support their claims. Among them are Rogaine and Propecia, which are quite popular with men seeking remedies for their hair loss. For our part, until this advancement can be applied to humans in a safe manner, it is important for people who have been blessed with a full head of hair to be compassionate to our follicley-challenged counterparts.

Parking here, parking there

Patricia A. Godoy
Contributor

Is it just me, or are you sickened watching young, able-bodied people park in spots designated for the disabled? I don't understand how some people can be so inconsiderate. I'm tired of it. It's reached the point where, if there isn't a permit on their dashboard, I'll actually ask a driver who pulls into a handicap spot where their permit is. Nobody I've ever asked has possessed one. Pathetic, isn't it?

What I find even more revolting is the attitude these thoughtless drivers tend to have. I recently saw four guys pull into one of the disabled parking spots at the Fairview mall. Naturally, I stood there to see if (a) they had a permit, or (b) if any of the passengers were, in fact, disabled in any physical way. Who was I kidding? The driver was offended by my questions. He even told me straight out: "I'm not handicapped!" What? Excuse me? Did I hear that correctly? I simply don't understand. How on earth can a young, completely healthy person who knowingly parks in a disabled parking spot get offended at the notion of being thought of as having a disability? As for all those selling fake disabled parking permits, all I have to say is: Lazy. Selfish. Inconsiderate. Bloodsucking. Worms.

The majority of people do not abuse the designated parking spots for the disabled. Let's hope we can keep it that way. Whenever you see somebody sneaking into a parking spot designated for disabled people, let them know you think they're being sleazy. You can do this either by giving them what I call a D-Look. That's the: 'I-can't-believe-you-had-the-nerve-to-park-there' look. Look at the disabled parking symbol, then look for a permit on their dashboard in an obvious manner. They'll feel a little more self-conscious and be more aware that their actions are not going unnoticed.

My point is, if you're not disabled, don't park in a spot designated for disabled people. It's a sign of disrespect towards the disabled, towards those who raised you to become a good citizen, and finally, towards yourself. Who knows ... maybe one day you'll be the one in dire need of those precious parking spots. Don't wait until the time when you rely on them to help you through the day to take action.

Social Sniper

Agree/disagree with the Social Sniper?

Email me at: **98godoyp@scar.utoronto.ca**

BODY

Three-peat's sweet at Varsity

Richard Blain
Contributor

In the tradition of dynasties like AC Milan and Ajax, the Scarborough College Women's and Men's team won their third successive championships in Interfaculty Soccer. Both teams played on Saturday, November 21st, at the Varsity Stadium scoring 1-0 victories over SMC and SGS respectively. For the men, it was a repeat of the finals last year when they beat SGS on penalty kicks. Ironically, this year they won on a penalty shot in the 21st minute of the game converted by Dimitri Floros. The game was clearly dominated by the Scarborough team, who had several opportunities to pad their lead, while SGS rarely broke through the middle to even test the goalie, a testament to the rock solid defense.

The women playing in the third consecutive finals at varsity stadium went into the match wanting to three-peat in the final year of the stadium's existence. Well, they accomplished that with a 1-0 win over SMC. Francine Challenger scored with three minutes remaining in the game to secure the third championship for the women's

team. The game was filled with rough tackles and physical play from SMC, which the Scarborough girls were not used to. However, the team held tough and prevailed as the victors. Both teams have young players to take over the positions vacated by departing veterans and to continue the strong soccer tradition for years to come at Scarborough. Congratulations to all the participants on both teams and a special thanks to all the fans that came and watched.

Women's team: Madda Liggio and Antonia Mantonakis (co-captains), Francine Challenger, Crystal Mooney, Amy Asghar, Lisa Mitchell, Vicki Theobald, Asha Noel, Laura Heggie, Tina Quickert, Sarah Galt, Ellen Howard, Marcilyn Cianfarani, Kathryn Gimousis, and Jen Deeble. Coach: Mohsin Bukhari.

Men's team: Tony Kiriakou (captain), Khary Lumley, Rob Tomovski, Carmen Amato, Allen Campos, Tharwat Sheik, Andrew Drexler, Simon Slater, Dimitri Floros, Samer Kolta, Muneer Mubashir, Will Kwan, Chris Brown, Tim Kemp, Steve Kemp, and Amir Siddiqui. Coach: Joe Gualiani.

CULINARY ¢ENTS

McDonald's: Health Offender

Rolondo Tecson
Staff

Ahh, we finally get to one of my favourite topics...Fast food. It's not that fast food isn't any good. Heck, despite being an advocate for healthy eating, I realize that when you've been weaned on Big Macs since childhood, you tend to replace "healthy" with "good" food. After years of oppression under the yoke of the Golden Arches, I have escaped to freedom and have decided to share my experience with the fast food biz. One look at the menu at McD's and you get the general sense of throwing away all notions of health and well-being. But, there are actually a few items on the menu that could be deemed fit for healthy consumption.

For instance, quite possibly the best choices for healthy eating are the Crispy Chicken, Salads, and Baked Pies. The reason why is that they are quick-baked, not immersed in oil. Here are some thoughts and facts I have dug up from my stint as a McSlave.

Edible?: Being an old hand at McD's, I've discovered a very interesting note. Fast food has a shelf-life of only 30 minutes after it has been cooked. After that, McDonalds has a policy of not allowing anyone, even bums, pick at the food, for fear of the results.

Would you like fries with that?: The delicious and famous McD's fries are of course cooked in a deep frier, but did you know that when solidified, the oil is actually a block of shortening measuring 1 foot by 1 foot? Moreover, at the end of the day, the old oil is reused by filtering it through a vacuum and dumping it back in.

Corrosive?: If you have a chance to walk around a McDonald's Restaurant, you may be treated to a sight of the Garbage Coral. The most interesting thing you will note is that the leakage from the garbage has the power to deteriorate cement and asphalt.

Big Mac's Birth: All McD's burgers are made in the same way. They are thrown onto a grill and cooked, and then they are tossed into a warm oven until needed. Usually this is about 10 -15 minutes. The burger is then thrown together with the rest of the stuffing into a super microwave.

Fresh Salad: All lettuce comes in a prepackaged wad that left in the fridge. But McDs has taken this idea one step further: the salads themselves are now prepackaged. For some reason, it became too expensive to train employees to make the salads and pizzas up fresh, so now everything is shrink-wrapped and frozen till needed.

Aside from seeing many horrid things found in the food, the irony of it all is that it is good food, which plays a number on one's taste buds. Even I find myself craving a McChicken with extra toppings. The key thing is not to eat too much of this stuff.

Questions? Comments? Recipes? E-Mail!: LittlepiggyCC@hotmail.com

Corny Tip of the Week: This is something I do to get the most out of my meagre meals in the fast food lane: I tell them to load the burger with as much topings as they can. This should not be a problem as many of the fast food joints tout good service. So emphasize this if they give you flak over an extra piece of tomato. If all else fails tell them your allergic to onions. Keep in mind that such things as bacon and cheese cost as much as 50 cents extra!

Interfaculty Action For December 1st – 9th

Tuesday, December 1st				
8:00 PM	Game 1 of FINAL Mens B BBall	vs	Dents	Scarborough Gym
Wednesday, December 2nd				
8:00 PM	Women's Ice Hockey	vs	UTM	Varsity arena
9:10 PM	Game 2 of FINAL Mens B BBall	vs	Dents	Downtown, FHW4
Thursday, December 3rd				
TBA	Game 3 of Final Mens B BBall	vs	Dents	TBA
Friday, December 9th				
8:00 PM	Mens A Ice Hockey	vs	PHE	Varsity Arena

Justin Parker/UG

University of Saskatchewan Huskies beat the Concordia Stingers (24-17) at Saturday's Vanier Cup game

Where are all the Ball Lovers?

Andrea Sykes
Contributor

As I feel the cold, air-conditioning send chills through my body, my mind is led to the striking reality that it is not the air-conditioning alone that is making the gym feel so cold. I wonder how much longer 3-on-3 Fridays will last. I watch a few interfaculty players and some "ball lovers" in the court before me. They are oblivious to their surroundings as they sweat and toil their way through defending, driving and passing to get the orange ball into the hoop. As my eyes stray to the left, there is a small game of 3-on-3, with jerseyless players, trying their best at winning the game with internal motivation alone. And the other two courts remain cold and desolate, a scene that was once filled with so much more.

Where are all the "ball lovers?" I have vivid pictures in my mind of a gym filled with an abundance of spirit and playful competition in the air. Players not only ran on internal motivation but on the loud cheers from supporters surrounding them. I remember this all too well, as I sit mournfully in the gym nowadays. Where did everyone go? The stands once overflowed with spectators, so much that they spilled onto the benches surrounding the courts. Teams were recognized by their favourite coloured jerseys and players by their lucky numbers. Every action-filled court was packed with players striving to make it to the playoffs. "Default" was a word that held no entity in this era. Friday was a day of socializing, playing, supporting or just hanging out at the place to be, the Scarborough Campus gym.

Now, the gym is filled with cold air and a few lovers of basketball. A far cry from what it use to be. Defaults are much more prevalent now. Players are just not motivated anymore, so they don't appear. There is nobody there to provide the appealing lure that the gym once held. The few players that do come out see no need to wear their jerseys anymore; there are no spectators to recognize them. Still, they wait eagerly for their opposing team. They don't even care anymore if it's a team that threatens their chance at the playoffs. They just want to play some basketball.

In between games and defaults I sit on the bleachers with one or two spectators around me. From our conversations, I find that I am not the only one who misses the "good 'ol days." They sit there bored and, eventually, they leave the gym in search of some other source of entertainment.

Why is this happening? Do we need to promote 3-on-3 Fridays? Perhaps there is not enough advertising for intramural basketball. Or could it be that the newer generations are less interested in basketball than the past

Whatever the case may be, it would be a sad time when intramural basketball could no longer exist.

BOLY

BIG LEAGUES

Ted Christou
Health and Fitness Editor

Can you imagine winning the lottery—every year for eight consecutive years? Well let me tell you, my friend. Mo Vaughn is living the dream!

I have already dealt with the salary issue in professional sports, and I hate to beat a dead horse, but this mule is alive and kicking. A couple of years ago there was a baseball strike which cancelled the World Series entirely. Money was obviously the main issue. Players wanted a larger proportion of the profits, and owners were unwilling to part with it.

Slowly, baseball overcame its labour disputes and shed the horrible image it had developed over the past few years. Baseball has done a terrific job of marketing its game to the fans, thanks to some terrific athletes like Ken Griffey Jr., Mark McGuire, and Sammy Sosa.

Last year's dream season is followed now by a dream off-season for free agents. A plethora of talent is available to the highest bidder. Free agency causing a player's stock to rise is no novelty. The extent to which salaries have grown, however, simply blows the mind.

Todd Stoffelmyre, the ex-Blue Jay, has never won more than 14 games in his career There is no doubting his talent, but is he worth the thirty-two million dollar contract he recently signed, care of the Arizona Diamondbacks?

In my life, I may earn just over a million dollars. Mo Vaughn of the Anaheim Angels will be making thirteen and a half million—each year—for the next eight years. Mike Piazza and Bernie Williams recently signed similar deals. I truly shudder to think what Randy Johnson and Kevin Brown, the two most coveted pitchers available, will command this upcoming season.

For generations, people have been pointing to signs of an approaching apocalypse, the proverbial end of the world, and now I've got them beat: Roger Clemens is considered the biggest bargain in baseball (he earns nearly nine million dollars per season).

I'm scared. Not for baseball, not for the owners, not even for the fans. The Earth's population is already growing at an uncontrollable rate, and I am scared that that problem will increase exponentially.

Let me explain. Every single person (myself included) will be rushing to have children. Some of these kids will be forced into sports with high hopes that they will make it into the professional ranks. If they do—even for just a season—they will be financially set for life. The odds can't be that bad, once one accounts for expansion causing a dilution of talent throughout most leagues.

Coming to a neighborhood park near you: a disproportionate number of fathers playing catch with their sons.

Men's A Basketball: A difficult victory

André Lewis
Contributor

Once again Scarborough's Men's A Basketball team put itself back in the winner's circle, and once again they did it the hard way.

Scarborough seems to be making a habit out of giving teams the lead and then showing them that they could take it away from them when they saw fit. In the game against Woodsworth, a team featuring a few ex-Varsity players who didn't even bother to show up was ALL Woodsworth in the first half. They had Scarborough by their throats with a 17 point lead and 12 minutes left in the half. Scarborough loosened the choke-hold by scoring 11 quick points in the last 12 minutes, the half-time score was 41-35 for Woodsworth.

In the early minutes of the second half, Scarborough began right where they left off by pressing the tired Woodsworth squad and eventually cutting the lead to 1 point. For some reason all of a sudden Scarborough forgot what was hurting the Woodsworth team and the lead grew to 12 points. As the clock ticked in Woodsworth's favour, Scarborough realized they didn't have time to fool around anymore and rallied the troops out of the trenches to tie the game with 5 minutes left. The final score was 85-79 for Scarborough.

Lately Scarborough has made a habit out of making things difficult for themselves, their fans and especially coach Ed So who said after the game, "I'm going to have a heart attack, it's too close."

As for individual performances, Mike Montes led the Scarborough team in scoring with 18 points, including 2 three pointers. André Lewis and Chris Weasel both had 14 points, 7 rebounds and 2 blocked shots. Also bringin' the pain on the court was Neil Lalor, who contributed a double-double consisting of 12 points and 10 boards.

Although Scarborough won the game, they're still not playing like a championship calibre team; when it comes to game time, they need to go hard or go home.

Furthermore, it's about time they had a home game.

Smooth Sailing for Men's B Basketball Team

André Lewis
Contributor

Scarborough Men's B Basketball has been running over their opponents all season long with a 5-1 record, and in the playoffs nothing changed. Last Thursday night they demolished the Pharmacy team's hopes of a championship in a 49-27 thumping during the semi-final game.

From the tip-off, Scarborough B took the lead and never looked back. Although the game was close, Scarborough B was always in the driver's seat. All hope was lost for Pharmacy when they took off the defensive pressure in the second half that was giving Scarborough B a little bit of trouble. Well, let's say it was at least making them sweat. "The press was their only chance, but I guess they didn't think so," recapped Jason Miles. The first half score was 23-10.

Scarborough B's scoring was led by their two forwards Gary Williams and Bo Darmola who had 20 and 15 points respectively. Meanwhile, their defence was anchored by their guards Jason Miles, Anthony Nembhardt and Darryl McFarlane who amassed 7 steals collectively.

Scarborough B will now move on to the finals where they will clash with the Dents for the Championship trophy, in a best of 3 series.

This one should be no trouble for Scarborough B who beat the Dents team handily in the regular season. If it goes to a third game, it would be very surprising for the Scarborough powerhouse and it would probably happen because they want to win the championship game at home.

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Adding and subtracting the Goodwin way

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

The Art of Betty Goodwin, one of Canada best known female artists, is a retrospective developed almost exclusively from the Art Gallery of Ontario's acquisition of 150 Goodwin works in 1996. The overall tone of the show is one of grief, both personal and for the inhumanity of the modern world. Goodwin's recent works focus mainly on human figures or the memory of the physical body. They are mostly faceless corpses that float in odd suspension, drowning in the grief of humanity. Though this show included some of her sculptures and prints, Goodwin's most distinguished and interesting works are her drawings.

The Art of Betty Goodwin opened on November 18th and will run until March 7th 1999. Her Toronto art dealer, Sable-Castelli is running a concurrent exhibit of her work until December 19th.

The AGO show traces Goodwin's career from the early 1950s until the '90s. It is loosely grouped by theme instead of a chronological order, which makes for a somewhat disjointed grouping of pieces. There is a very visible distinction between Goodwin's early works and her more successful pieces created after she rejected her initial style and concepts.

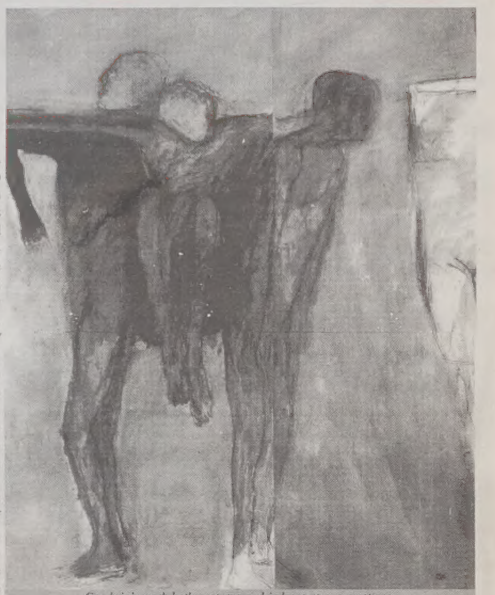
In the 1970s Goodwin burst into the international art world with a collection of soft ground etchings of vests. She had become dissatisfied with all of her previous endeavours and realized that her art was not making personal connections with herself. She chose men's vests as a symbol for her father who was a textile contractor. He died when Goodwin was just nine years old. The most interesting of the etchings are the ones that she has experimented with the faux X-ray effects that textiles can achieve when they are pressed into copper plates.

Goodwin achieves a faux X-ray effect here by pressing the vest into a copper plate

In the 1980s, Goodwin returned to drawing to expand upon her themes. This is when she developed her signature "swimmer" figures. These drawings abandon all relation to gravity, body posture and anatomy. *Untitled (Two Figures/ Divers)*, made in 1984, characterises this limp body positioning . The figures seem to float in water, and they assume odd positioning, sometimes bending joints in the wrong way.

Goodwin sees drawing as a process of adding and subtracting. She often uses a shaking and tentative line that retraces the outline of her figures to make them ambiguous. Goodwin also uses erasure as part of the drawing. The hands and feet in *Two Figures/Divers* have been erased and smudged so that they are indistinct.

There is an overwhelming sense of sadness and grief to all the works. This is both a personal grief and her reaction to the mass media. Her drawings are a reaction to immediacy in which we experience the horrors of war, famine and inhumanity via the news broadcasts of the mass media. She feels that we are powerless to change the atrocities that exist within our world.



Goodwin's work both portrays and induces strong emotions.

This grief is evident as two figures carry a wounded or dead figure upon their shoulders in *Porteur*, a large drawing of graphite, oil pastel and wash on mylar made in 1986-87. A white, headless figure floats off the edge of the page away from the red glowing bodies of the mourners. Goodwin has transformed the unmerciful political oppression and suffering of the world into a personal experience.

Goodwin does not start each work with a theme that she has already developed. The ideas evolve as the drawing progresses, though they retain a certain ambiguity. She sees drawing as a transformation that removes, leaves traces, and adds new images or objects, not to judge the inhumanity but to cope with it. Each viewer will experience Goodwin's work differently depending on their personal encounters, but the awareness of mortality is unavoidable.

Goodkind Blows You Away

Nadia Alam
Staff

"Let me kill him," Cara said. And so *Temple of the Winds* begins, launching the reader into the midst of a whirlwind story involving power, magic, war, betrayal, conspiracies, laughter, tragedy, and above all, an enduring love. This novel is the fourth installation in the *Sword of Truth* series, cunningly masterminded by **Terry Goodkind**.

Goodkind, a newcomer to the fantasy genre, has made a huge impact with his first written series. The abundance of web pages dedicated to him and his writing, the repeated times that his books have placed on the bestseller's list, the endless commendations from other respected fantasy authors, all are a testament to his prowess. Being a jack of all trades, Goodkind has roved from cabinet making to making violins to business school to fine art for twenty-odd years, until he found his niche in writing fantasy. He overcame his dyslexia, which caused him to misinterpret words, to write books that have ensnared countless readers time and again.

I could find nothing to gripe about in *Temple of the Winds*. Goodkind has created characters so seemingly genuine that you end up sharing in their terror, their happiness, their sorrows, and their joys. They become your friends, since they seem so real. His memorable, totally human, characters kept the spirit of the novel from getting bogged down by its grim, oftentimes horrific, scenes and portrayals. Moreover, Goodkind has deftly woven a plot so carefully crafted and continuously inventive that the scenes meld seamlessly into one another in a natural progression. Everything makes sense; there are no loose ends that tug disturbingly at your mind once you put the book down.

The story is fast-paced, almost frantic at times as the story moves between sub-plots. It could have been overwhelming in its complexity and detail; instead, the story line pulls you right in. Goodkind's world is so richly textured that it seems almost tangible. Indeed, during its read, I found it somewhat disconcerting to step back into our reality, so comfortable was I in his world.

What I found to be most appealing about the book was its clarity. The story was simply told; Goodkind wasn't out to impress his readers with his vast intellect. Rather, he related a story about people with common dreams, who were caught in a storm of uncontrollable events. The book was an honest look at universal themes such as abiding love, truth, power, and corruption. Despite its simplicity, *Temple of the Winds* is awe-inspiring in its sweeping grandeur, a result of the intricacy of its design. To fashion a world that is as genuine as our own takes a certain genius.

It's "thumbs up, way up!" from this reader.

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SOUL

New Career Annuals May Help With Job Hunt

Irini Shehata
Staff

The 1999 edition of *The Career Directory* and *Who's Hiring 1999* offer a wide variety of information, but depending on your need, you may find one more useful than the other. Both annuals wisely suggest you use them as an aid, not as your main source in job hunting. Here's a brief evaluation of how each book performs in two of the most popular areas of job hunting:

Post-Graduate work: *Who's Hiring 1999* is full of approximately 4000 bona fide Canadian employers who have advertised for at least two full-time positions over the past year, and in this sense, it is more useful than *The Career Directory*. Under each listing of the employer are the job titles held by people in that company and who you should contact. There's also a well-organized occupational index listing employers from each genre of work; however, it should be noted that the index misses entire genres of work, including the arts. A geographic index at the back of the book lists all the employers in a specific city, just in case you aren't willing to move from Toronto. Overall, the number of listings and the fact that these employers have recently been hiring make *Who's Hiring 1999* a better choice for post-graduates.

Note that *The Career Directory* may not provide as many employer listings as *Who's Hiring 1999*, but the 900 they do have are significantly more detailed about the company being profiled. A thorough breakdown of people and their entry level education, not only at the baccealaurate level, but the doctorate as well, provide some possibly useful information. The arts have been included significantly more than *Who's Hiring 1999*, although not too many listings are stated.

Summer Work: Certainly *The Career Directory* wins in this respect simply because they offer an alphabetically organized index of employers who hire specifically during the summer. *Who's Hiring 1999* does not have anything of the sort.

After thorough review, it's clear that the two annuals cater to different needs. The pricey books ($24.95 and above) may help those of you not motivated enough to do a vigorous job hunt. However, for those who are, the books, with the exception of *The Career Directory*'s summer job index, don't really tell you anything an extensive search of Scarborough's resource centre won't. Unless you can afford to buy the book, set aside some time in the career centre and you'll be amazed what you will come up with.

Toronto theatre may suffer

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

Toronto's reputation as a great city for theatre has ground immensely in the past decade. Tourists come from all across the country, as well as the world, to see Toronto's big shows, such as Phantom of the Opera, Rent, Chicago, and Show Boat. Our city had joined the leagues of New York and London as a capital of entertainment. All that now hangs in the limbo because of Livent's financial woes. They are supposed to announce a restructuring plan today that includes nearly $25 million (U.S.) in new financing, the cancellation of an American tour of Show Boat and some layoffs.

Formerly headed by Garth Drabinski and Myron Gottlieb, who are facing charges of fraud, Livent is at risk of going out of business. Drabinski and Gottlieb have filed for bankruptcy protection and have cancelled shows at The Ford Centre for the Performing Arts both in Toronto and Vancouver. This is putting hundreds of employees of Livent, at least temporarily, out of work. Livent, unlike many other professional Theatre companies, does most of the sets, costumes and crews in-house, so with all these cancellations, actors, lighting and stage crews, costume designers and makers, front of house crews, and many more are unemployed.

Immediately, there will be no serious effects on the other Toronto theatres, but in the long run, there this could be a huge blow to the Toronto theatre scene. If Livent folds, there will be much more competition for the remaining theatre-related jobs at Mirvish productions (the other major theatre company in Toronto) and in the Not-For-Profit sector. Toronto will be losing a large amount of money gained through tourism, and it will tarnish our reputation as a notable theatre city. Livent was a major force in the artistic and marketing aspects of theatre; collectively, they have won eighteen Tony Awards and have set the standards for advertising a broadway show.

Livent's actions were an abuse of ticket seller/customer relationship. Usually, when tickets are being sold for a production, the money is held in trust by the ticket agents until the end of the run in case there is a need to refund sales. Livent had an odd (and suspicious sounding) agreement with Ticket Master that the money from ticket sales would be sent immediately to the company. So now that they are bankrupt, this money is frozen by the courts. Customers who hold tickets for cancelled shows will not be receiving refunds from Livent. The major credit card companies are promising refunds, but they will still have to eventually get this money from Livent.

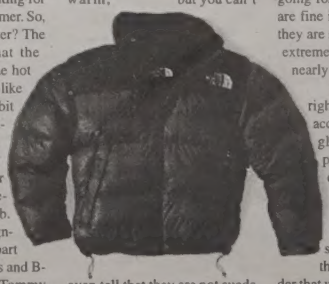
Drabinski chose the Greek demi-god Icarus as the symbol of the company. Perhaps this was a harbinger of the future of Livent. Icarus had many aspirations and flew too near the sun, which melted the wax on his wings, causing him to fall back to earth and his death.

THE AVANT-GARDE MALE

COVERING UP FOR THE WINTER

Charles Mitchell
Staff

Are you starting to feel that chill in the air? We have to face the fact that the Indian summer would only last so long. Well, it's that time of the year again. Time to put away those fall jackets and start hunting for something a little bit warmer. So, what's in style this winter? The trend-watchers say that the goose down jacket is the hot items on the retail racks. I like the look but I find it a bit too casual. While I do admit that goose down jackets are extremely warm, I would rather freeze than wear something like this to a club. Most of the major designers have the piece as a part of their retail collections and B-boys should love the Tommy Hilfiger selection. What I do like about this look is the wide variety of colours that it is available in. Menswear and especially coats are not known for taking bold risks in color.



The faux leather jacket that was such a hit for the last couple of winters seems to be out this year. Perhaps people realized that it may look like leather but it definitely wasn't as warm as leather. But what we do see instead is ultra-suede winter coats. Not only are they very warm, but you can't even tell that they are not suede at times to the touch.

But for me, nothing beats the real thing, whether it be leather or suede. The favorite this year is the double-breasted black leather jacket. The look is retro thirties and brings back memories of Dillinger and flappers. The single-breasted jacket is still around and gives a man a dressier look, especially when accented by the right scarf. If it does come to leather, try to stay away from lamb skin unless it's that specific look that you are going for. Lamb and sheepskin are fine in autumn or spring as they are soft; however, they are extremely thin hides and aren't nearly as toasty as cow hide.

Once you get that right coat don't forget to accessorize: try deer skin gloves and a wool hat pulled snugly over those ears. The best way to still stand out is a great scarf. Try getting a few. Try matching your scarf with the clothes that you are wearing under that winter jacket.

Stay warm and stay in style.

Questions or comments, email me at **avantgardemale@hotmail.com**

Begging For Opera

Jackson San Luis
Staff

Seventy years ago, *The Three Penny Opera* made its debut in Germany under the collaboration of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht. On November 19, its commemoration was celebrated with a magical performance at University of Toronto's own MacMillan Theatre in the Edward Johnson Building.

The original premise behind Weill and Brecht's opera could be found in a play written in 1728 by English satirist, John Gay, called, *The Beggar's Opera*. The play was a social commentary on the dregs of cosmopolitan England and an allegorical attack on the corruption and vices attributed to English Bourgeois society.

Much of the plot from *The Beggar's Opera* permeated through the production of *The Three Penny Opera*. The real highlights came during the musical interludes, which featured the vocal talents of Daniel Ohlmann, Alex Dobson, Rosalind Lewis, Arlene Simmonds, Carla Huhtanen, Joseph Song Chi and Juniper Locilento, with a tremendous supporting performance by the University of Toronto Orchestra.

The presentation of tangibles was outstanding. The costumes were convincing, as diverse as the array of paints in a palette. The lighting complemented the warm hues of the false-fronted establishments, as the stage crew made excellent use of their limited space. With the utilization of mobile sets and the ingenious use of props, the stage crew was able to manipulate tone, atmosphere, and setting fluidly, thus dissolving any possible fragmentation in the performance. Changes between sets were well executed, delivering an amorphous unpredictability rivaled only by the opera's conclusion.

The Three Penny Opera was an eventful performance meriting top marks for effort. Each segment concluded with enough intrigue to make the show's intermissions the real tragedies of the evening.

The three hour opus was an excursion through emotional extremities, which rendered all those in attendance submissive to their own feelings and left them wanting a spectacle, all the while savouring every transient moment.

EAR TO THE GROUND

DUB THEIR WAY

Robin Singh
Contributor

At one time or another, everybody has heard at least one old dub tune. People remember the sounds of **Lee "Scratch" Perry** (especially for his work with **Bob Marley**)—the most recognized producer of the dub sound who went crazy and burned down his studio in Jamaica many years ago. Perry is now in England (perfectly sane), and continuing to make his own style of dub.

Today, with the growth of technology, a new style of dub is making its way into the mainstream. The **Dub Pistols** are one of the leaders of the new school, using new technology to make themselves more noticeable to those who know dub.

Barry Ashworth caught the rave bug while vacationing in Ibiza, Spain. He returned home to England, and opened two nights, as well as becoming a DJ himself.

He met **John Carter**, a DJ at Heavenly nightclub's weekly night, the Social. Carter asked Ashworth and another man by the name of **Lee "Einstien" Spencer** to fix up his track "Blow The Whole Joint Up". Together they became the Dub Pistols.

Point Blank, their first full-length album, is packed with hip hop breaks, samples ranging from ska to old jazz, and rumbling basslines. The Pistols also took on **John King** to play lead guitar, **Jason O'Bryan** on bass guitar, and **William Borez** to play keyboards. And for extra flavour, New York native, **T.K. Lawerence** laid down some hip hop lyrics. Their music flows just like the old dub style, pushing forward the Pistols energy onto anybody who is listening. It is apparent that their energy isn't a short-lived thing. They jump around on stage like wild men, expressing the strength that their music gives them. In one of their earlier UK gigs they were even arrested for being "too energetic."

Ashworth commented about his energy on an American tour by saying: "I broke my ankle during one of our recent shows —I was jumping about on stage and came down on the microphone stand. I didn't realize I had hurt myself. So I went and DJed afterwards, then had a little party in my hotel room. In the morning, I woke up screaming in pain and had to crawl down the corridor to find someone to take me to the hospital. We had to do the next two scheduled gigs, 'cause we couldn't fly home unless we did, so I spent them at the back of the stage, propped up on a stool. I didn't sing. I didn't do much. Yet I still managed to get so drunk that I toppled over backwards, landing on the sound man."

GrooVerid in'

Shaun Dhani
Staff

If you know drum 'n bass chances are you've heard of **Grooverider** or of his influence on the genre. A born and bred South Londoner, Rider has been on the scene for twelve years, spinning in any scene, from warehouse jams to illegal raves and massive outdoor festivals. He's been on the circuit for the evolution of dance, from acid house to techno and now drum 'n bass.

Mysteries of Funk is one bass kicking, beat tripping, volume cranking album. Fifteen tracks of pure funk. As Rider says, "It's not a soul album, Funk is something that's a bit harder than soul.....Funk is what it's all about. That's where I come from." The album reflects Grooverider's versatility and experience, a seamless fusion of techno, hip hop, jazz, even some punk rock. Hardedged tracks like "Where is Jack the Ripper" reverberate with an acid-tripping presence, while "Rainbows of Colour" seduces the eardrums with the haunting vocals of **Roya Arab**. **Sophie Baker** also provides vocals for other tracks like "Time and Space" in a melodious disarray.

Music with an almost physical resolution is what *Mysteries of Funk* delivers, a workout for your stereo and a massage for the auditory receptors. Even if you've never heard of Grooverider, but enjoy a diversity of music, this is definitely worth checking out. A perfect vibe for late hours on campus or seeking the perfect mind altering trip (drug-free of course!). Interested? Check out the official site at **www.grooverider.com** for real audio clips off the CD, then make your decision. And if you do decide to pick up the album, do yourself a favour and pick up some sub-woofers.

TQ MESHES GANGSTA RAP AND R&B

Camillo Gibson
Staff

Terrence Quaites, or **TQ**'s debut album, *They Never Saw Me Coming*, unfolds like your favourite 'n the hood movie. This cinematic album is filled with tales of gunfights, drug peddling, and good ol' mackin'. Though these may not be the most original of themes to explore, TQ makes it interesting with his unique gangsta R&B style. Producer **Mike Mosely**, known for providing some of rapper **2pac**'s beats, laces beautiful music which cushions TQ's hardcore lyrics. Spanish guitars back "The Comeback," featuring **Tha Dogg Pound**'s **Daz** and **Kurupt**, a song so breezy you almost forget it's about avenging a murder. There's no mistaking the premise of "When I Get Out," a duet with **Ericka Yancey**, a sizzling tune that relays a conversation between a prisoner and his girlfriend on the outside. It's not all negative though, as the singer puts it down for the whole West Coast on the first single, "Westside," where he shouts out everyone from the "ghetto children" to the "sistas at the county building." TQ manages to put a fresh spin on both gangsta rap and R&B by meshing the two, and creating something totally unexpected. True indeed, we never saw him coming.

FAST TALK

Irini Shehata
Staff

Babies, babies, babies. That's what a recent string of musicians and their spouses have been having lately. A baby girl was recently born to the **All Saints**' **Melanie Blatt** as well as to the **Fugees**' **Lauryn Hill** while **Melissa Etheridge** and girlfriend Julie (former wife of **Lou Diamond Phillips**) had a boy...Childbirth is just one of many things **the Cranberries**' **Delores O'Riordan** has endured since the group's last album, *To The Faithful Departed*, was released in 1996. Well, Dolores and the rest of the Cranberries are back with more "upbeat" and "joyful" music on *Promises*, says the band of their fourth full-length album to be released early next year. A European tour has been slated and possibly a North American one to follow...Fanatics of **The Clash** should keep a lookout for a tribute album full of some of the band's greatest hits. Artists contributing to the 1999 release include **Tricky**, **Afghan Whigs**, **Rancid**, **No Doubt** and **Leonard Cohen**...Also due out next year are a live album and video from **Sarah McLachlin**'s last tour for *Surfacing*, her Juno- and Grammy-winning album. Her label, Nettwerk, plans on releasing the two in March when the industry begins its recovery after drooping sales in January and February...Musicians in the movies is something else fans will be seeing a lot of next year. First up is **Poe** in a flick titled *Gossip*, which is currently being filmed in Toronto. Poe will also contribute a cover of the **GoGos**' early Eighties track "Our Lips Are Sealed"...As well, the **Fugees** are in a movie, *Ghetto Superstar*, about a rapper in an American ghetto trying to make it into the difficult and corrupt industry. **Pras** will have the main slot with **Lauryn** and **Wyclef** making appearances. The film will be released by MadGuy Films, an extension of **Madonna**'s production companies...Finally, Toronto fans can catch **The Tragically Hip** playing at the new Air Canada Centre venue on February 22nd. This is part of their Canadian tour in support of their recently released album, *Phantom Power*. **By Divine Right** will open for the boys as they did on a previous summer tour...

New material on the way from the Cranberries

EAR TO THE GROUND

Standing On Their Own Two Legs

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

On Two Legs proves that **Pearl Jam** is still going strong at what they do best. This live album does not introduce the listener to an innovative new sound, or very many new songs for that matter. What it does accomplish, however, is provide the listener with a taste of Pearl Jam's highly praised live performances. For those who've never been able to get a coveted ticket to one of their concerts, this is a good replacement.

For those who have seen Pearl Jam live, it is a chance to revisit the memories (though it is hardly a substitute). Although this title includes many of the singles from previous albums, they are not radically different. So if you already have an extensive collection of Pearl Jam CDs, there will be a number of repeats. For instance the first track "Corduroy," originally from *Vitalogy*, only has the guitar solo lengthened by about 20 seconds. Beyond that, the song is remarkably similar to the previous recording. **Eddie Vedder's** singing is clear and smooth, the energy level is high, and the melodies vary little. A few of the other tracks have the audience joining in the chorus or clapping.

Eddie Vedder spreads his message to the masses in On Two Legs

A major Pearl Jam fan will probably have a number of bootlegs; therefore, this album is probably unnecessary for them to purchase. Someone who is new to Pearl Jam (where have they been for the last seven years?) could possibly buy this as an introduction to the band. The problem with most live albums is their failure to introduce something original to both old and new listeners.

Pearl Jam's style has remained pretty consistent since they helped launch the Seattle grunge-rock scene, but this album is more of a collection of their greatest hits with a few new songs thrown in, as opposed to being a truly cohesive album.

MIXIN' IT UP WITH CHEF

Greg Brown
Staff

Showcasing what seems to be a promising talent, the creators of *South Park* released *Chef Aid: The South Park Album*. To say the least, this is definitely one of the most original and humourous albums I've ever heard. For one, the disc contains 21 tracks featuring the works of **Primus**, **Elton John**, **Wyclef Jean**, **The Crystal Method**, and, of course, **Matt Stone** and **Trey Parker**, the masterminds behind the hit show. In addition, while many of the tracks are just remixes of older songs, some of which involve characters from the show, others are completely original. Still others are extended versions of songs from various episodes, all of which are performed by differing artists.

The mix of the different currently popular styles makes this disc worth looking into for nearly anybody. In fact, a few of with interesting results. However, unless you're already into the show, a few of the more humorous elements will lose their charm. Luckily, some of the other songs, like "Chocolate Salty Balls" and "Simultaneous," both of which are performed by Chef (**Isaac Hayes**), are simply hilarious in their own right. This is not to say that all the songs were written just for laughs. Some of them, such as "Hot Lava," by **Perry Farrell** and **D.V.D.A.**, "Brad Logan," by **Rancid**, and "Kenny's Dead," by **Master P.**, are performed very well without being extremely humorous. For the die-hard *South Park* fan, the disc also includes the South Park Theme song, "Come Sail Away," with Cartman on vocals, and "Mentally Dull," a techno mix composed of sound-bites from the show, which ends with the riotous "Kyle's Mom is a Bitch" song from the first Christmas episode.

Chef serves up his "Salty Chocolate Balls" on the South Park *album*

In a nutshell, this CD offers a lot for nearly anyone. The only complaint I have is that it didn't include Kyle's "I'm Just a Jew" song, also from the first Christmas episode, but this is understandable because Sony might have thought it was too offensive. Aside from this, *Chef Aid: The South Park Album* is undoubtedly the ultimate in comical compilations for even the slightest *South Park* fan.

PRIME CUT

Bounty Killer Misses Target

Camillo Gibson
Staff

Rodney Price, also known as **Ms. Ivy's Last Son**, and also known as **Bounty Killer**, first appeared on the dancehall reggae scene in 1992 with a tune called "Coppershot." Ever since then, Bounty has been mashing up dances and stageshows with his trademark style. His first major label effort, *My Xperience*, featured unique and interesting collaborations with **Busta Rhymes** and the **Fugees**. His second major album, *Next Millenium*, tries to capture the fusion of hip hop and reggae of the last album by pairing Bounty with rappers **Noreaga** and the **Cocoa Brovas**.

This series of collaborations fails to deliver the excitement of his last effort. Most of the beats that underly Bounty's lyrics are softer, R&B-style rythms that don't mesh well with his vocal flow. The Killer is clearly at his best when at his most vitriolic, voicing over sizzling **Dave Kelly** productions like *Eagle and the Hawk* and *Can't Believe Mi Eyes*; both tunes are already fixtures in any dancehall. Tunes like these are few and far between on the album, and result in *Next Millenium* being a major dissapointment for even hardcore Bounty Killer fans.

TIMBALAND'S BASSMENT

Ted Christou
Staff

As soon as anything becomes mainstream, it is inevitable that countless variations will soon spring from it. The realm of rap is no exception. From **Public Enemy** to **Wu Tang** to...**Timbaland**. No, of course I wouldn't place his latest album, *Life From Da Bassment* in a class with any of the afore-mentioned groups, but I can sense some definite promise.

This album is one of the ever-growing compilations which have a wide variety of songs. There's the bass-tinged "Fat Rabbit" and the mid-tempo "Talkin' on the Phone." "Lobster & Scrimp" features ghetto rapper **Nas**, and underground favourite **Mad Skillz** mixes "To My," a track characterized by syncopated ragtime piano.

There is something strangely familiar about this disk. The echoes of Saturday morning cartoons pop up at the most unexpected times. (I nearly missed the allusion to the Spiderman theme song!) "Here We Come" is as old school as it gets, and yet, the innocence of childhood memories is evoked in some of the pop music melodies.

The variety of musical ideas and sounds combine with some terrific mixing to produce a CD which shows just how far we have come from the old overdubbed cassette productions.

old School Daze

Camillo Gibson
Staff

Atlanta's **DJ Nabs** is a true fan of Old School hip hop, and shares some of his favourites with us on this collection of tunes that audiences have come to know and love. Though DJ Nabs may not be the most skilled DJ in the world, and he doesn't show much turntable skills here, there are still enough songs here that take you on a pleasurable stroll down memory lane.

Classics like *I Ain't No Joke* and *I Know You Got Soul* by **Eric B & Rakim**, **MC Shan's** landmark cut, *The Bridge*, and **Special Ed's** *I Got It Made* all appear and allow the listener to recall the days when hip hop was in its prime. There are minor detractions though, like **Jermaine Dupri** and **R.O.C.** attempting, without success, to sound live over a **Biz Markie** instrumental. This does not hinder the album though, for there are few opportunities to find rare and diverse items like **Joe Ski Love's** *Pee Wee Dance* and the remix of **Supercat's** *Ghetto Red Hot* all on one disc. No compilation of old school hits can encompass all of the songs that made us dance, and there are a few classics that I feel were left out. But *In The Lab With DJ Nabs*, despite its corny title, satisfies and delivers the essence of a classic hip hop set.

THE FRONT ROW

Bloody Bumbling Bachelors

Jennifer Perez
Contributor

The most repeated phrase a viewer utters during this movie is, "Oh my God!" Why? Simply because the viewer does not know whether he or she is allowed to laugh or just resort to putting on a mask of disgust while enjoying the gory scenes internally. In my opinion, just go ahead and laugh. You know you want to. It is a comedy after all. A dark comedy, that is. A very morbidly entertaining one, too.

And that is exactly how director **Peter Berg** intended his movie, *Very Bad Things*, to be. This is a shocking film. There is shock for the sake of shock, and it never disappears. The moviegoer is constantly treated to surprising turns and unexpected outcomes often stemming from the unlikeliest of characters. Think Tweetie Bird finally getting revenge on Sylvester the "Puthy-Cat" and gutting him messily with a meat cleaver. "Yum," you think? You are definitely going to love to this movie. "Eeeew, gross?" You'll still enjoy it. And you'll laugh, hard.

Yet another slumber party gone awry

The "bad things" in *Very Bad Things* actually begin at a bachelor party for all-set suburban boy Kyle Fisher (**John Favreau**) thrown by his weird concoction of four fellow suburbanite-friends, including the devilish Boyd, played by **Christian Slater** (looking quite sober throughout the film). When a stripper enters the muddle of drugs, booze and sports (wrestling, specifically), everything snowballs into a downward spiral. Blood, bathroom clean-up, blood, seating arrangements, blood, wedding rehearsals and, well, more blood. Everything culminates into the very wedding day Kyle has been waiting for with his semi-neurotic fiancée, Laura, aptly played by the beautiful **Cameron Diaz**. The movie concludes hilariously (if one does not put him or herself into the shoes of any of the characters) and most unpredictably.

That is the key into enjoying this film. Sit back and relax. See the reality of this movie and don't feel too much for the characters because they are so real, and yet they seem to act too irrationally that it is strongly disturbing. I mean, really, who hasn't seen *Pulp Fiction*? That didn't hurt too badly (if it did hurt at all). *Very Bad Things* is not out to inflict pain, but to represent pain in a way we can digest: with good ol' fashioned humour. So regardless of what you may have heard about this film, put the barf bag away and get ready for a lot of laughs. Oh, and also try to pry your fingers away from your eyes.

Too Cold for the Silver Screen

Dragi Dodevski
Asst. Arts Editor

If you find the *Jerry Springer Show* pathetic and depressing, **Jerry Springer**'s feature film debut, *The Ringmaster*, won't blow your whistle. The morally degrading talk show is the highest rated daytime show in its format, with a weekly viewing audience of more than 25 million people.

The Ringmaster is a parodied glance behind the scenes of a highly controversial talk show. The film explores the human drama of the guests of a particular episode as they grapple with their ever-complicated lives.

Connie Zorzak (**Molly Hagan**), a thirty-something junkie who works at the local donut shop in 'hicktown' Dade City, Florida, is one of Jerry's

Jerry Springer gets knocked out by The Ringmaster, *his debut film*

distinguished guests. She suspects foul play between her husband Rusty (**Michael Dudikoff**) and her daughter, Angel (**Jaime Pressly**). Angel is 19 and nothing like her name. Though she is about to tie the knot with the naïve and slightly slow Willie (**Ashley Holbrook**), Angel divides her extracurricular sexual activity between the male guests of a hotel, where she works as a chambermaid, and her stepfather.

"I can't help that my mama can't satisfy her man," confides Angel to Springer. "Plus, it's not like he's my real daddy. He's not blood or anything."

The other guest set consists of Starletta (**Wendy Racquel Robinson**), who catches her man and her best friend Vonda (**Tangie Ambrose**) in too compromising a position. She drags them and another friend, who has endured similar misfortunes, to the Jerry Springer Show to confront their betrayals on national television.

The movie evaporates into a layered love triangle and senseless desperation, or, more aptly, an extended episode of the usual talk show. It leaves the viewer disgusted and amazed at how willing some individuals are to humiliate themselves. Of course, there are excessive obscenities and nudity, even a shot of a bare-chested Springer.

Do your brain a favour and see something else when you visit the cinema. I'm still getting over the bitter aftertaste.

Enemy of the State: A Justified Paranoia

Nadia Alam
Staff

Robert Dean (**Will Smith**--*Men in Black, Independence Day*) has it all at first glance: good looks, a career in which he is on the fast track to fame, a beautiful wife (**Roberta King**--*How Stella Got Her Groove Back, Jerry Maguire*), who is somewhat passionate about her paranoia, and a precocious son who could steal your heart. However, his life is turned topsy-turvy when a chance encounter in a lingerie boutique with an old college buddy leaves him in the possession of evidence recording the murder of a well-respected congressman. All of a sudden, Dean becomes the target of slanderous articles in the local papers, his bank accounts are wiped clean, "vandals" break into his home, leaving behind a mess that would make Hurricane Mitch blush and several bugs that would track Dean's every movement. This mayhem is masterminded by corrupt, self-serving Thomas Reynolds (**Jon Voight**--*Heat, Mission Impossible*), a national security official who isn't opposed to seizing NSA toys to track down Dean in hopes of claiming the recording. What Reynolds hadn't counted on was Dean's intelligence and unexpected salvation in the form of Brill (**Gene Hackman**--*Crimson Tide, Get Shorty*), an ex-NSA agent who has seen it all, done it all and then some.

Will Smith runs from the pajama police

I had expected to walk out of this movie, shaking my head, murmuring "boys and their toys." Instead, I was pleasantly surprised to find a movie well worth watching. It was fast-paced, clever, and packed with enough twists that kept the audience captivated for its entire duration. The special effects were spectacular. Some of the best were the ones where the camera would zoom in from the satellite's view in outer space onto an individual object on the street. A techie's fantasy, the movie wasn't over my head in its technical jargon—me being a person who is to say the least, not well-versed in the ins and outs of computers and all things that are based on chips and...stuff.

Moreover, the movie wasn't so overbearing in its technical theme that character development suffered. Instead of being flat cardboard cutouts, the characters were realistic in their words and actions. It was so easy to fall into the movie, to forget about the real world, to be sucked into the story line. All of the actors delivered stunning performances that meshed seamlessly with one another; the chemistry was well balanced.

The movie's theme centered on a controversial bill that that decreed that "criminals" could and should be watched as a matter of national security. The bill was a clear violation of the right of every human to privacy, and the movie emphasized this point by presenting the staggering array of means and instruments that were available for the express purpose of snooping. However, instead of bludgeoning one to death with the grim theme, the movie subtly secured the audience's sympathy by playing off the deeper, more serious elements with the lighter, comic scenes. The movie walked a fine line between a heavy drama and a light-hearted romp through a wonderland of chips, bytes and satellites.

Nevertheless, the paranoia relished by the characters on screen was contagious; as I walked out of the theater, I couldn't help but wonder: was anyone watching me?

PLAY WITH ME

WARPED ENTERTAINMENT

Greg Brown
Staff

In his last adventure, Crash foiled Dr. Cortex's plans of world domination by capturing the magic crystals, and using the power of the gems to destroy Cortex's space station. Unfortunately, as the debris fell to the earth, a large piece destroyed the temple prison holding Cortex's master, the dreaded Uka Uka. Angry with Cortex for failing him twice, Uka Uka calls upon the talents of Dr. N. Tropy. It seems that Tropy has created a device called the Time Twister, allowing Cortex and Uka Uka to travel through time, and find the crystals in their original locations, well before Cortex's first encounter with Crash.

Luckily, Uka Uka's presence is felt by his twin brother, the great shaman Aku Aku, who quickly explains the situation to Crash and his little sister, Coco, and takes them to the Time Twister. If Crash and Coco can find the crystals before Cortex and his henchmen, the world will be saved once again.

To make a long story short, **Naughty Dog**'s *Crash Bandicoot: Warped* is one of the best platform

games on the Playstation. As in *Crash 2*, the game is divided into 5 main levels, each with 5 sub-levels that can be played in any order. Only now, the levels don't just represent different environments, but they also portray a variety of eras in time, like the middle ages, prehistoric times, and the 60's. A few levels involve riding a jet-ski or a baby tiger, but Crash is replaced by his sister, Coco. Not to worry, though, as Crash does get to cruise along on a motorcycle, fly a biplane, do some scuba diving, and even ride a baby dinosaur. In addition, not only are all of Crash's moves back, but for each boss that is beaten, he earns a new one. These new moves include a double jump, running ability, and a fruit bazooka. For all you past fans out there, the infamous Crash Dance has returned as well.

The animations scattered throughout the game are incredibly refined, with near perfect voice-overs. In fact, the intro reminded me of a Saturday morning cartoon. The graphics are also very detailed, adding to the immersive feeling to each of the worlds. There is no lagging when moving between the different sections in each sub-level, as they seamlessly meld into one. In some cases, this involves some major camera-angle shifting, but it's all done flawlessly. Unfortunately, the camera can still get a little buggy in some areas.

Even with all these huge technical leaps, **Naughty Dog** was still able to add yet another element to the actual gameplay. As in *Crash 2*, Crash must collect a crystal to complete each level, and by finding all the gems, a better ending is earned. Most of the gems are clear, but finding a colored one will open up secret areas in some levels. The big change this time is that after a level is beaten, Crash can reenter it to play the Time Trial Mode. If the level is completed within a given time, you will earn a Relic. Every 5 Relics collected will open a secret level, which contains it's own gem. This really adds to the challenge, but is only necessary to get the alternate ending. Also, some of the crystals aren't as easy to collect, and can only be earned by completing a specific challenge. For example, in the motorcycle race, you can only get the crystal by winning the race, not just surviving it.

On the whole, this installment in the *Crash Bandicoot* series is a bit more challenging, but isn't nearly as frustrating, as it relies on more of a variety of skills, instead of just timing jumps. To top it all off, *Warped* also supports the DualShock controller, and even has a demo of Spyro the Dragon right on the disc. With so much packed into one game, *Crash Bandicoot: Warped* is definitely a must-have title.

Format: *Playstation*
Our recommendations: *Dualshock controller, memory card*
Rating: *Crash is back and ready for some totally warped action. I would miss 9 out of 10 classes to play this crazy game.*

A Twisted Wish

David Stewart
Contributor

Each year the twelve best, and most insane, drivers gather with their souped up vehicles and challenge one another for the ultimate prize: one wish. The road to this goal is littered with eleven other drivers who also want this goal. If you lose, you die. Oh yeah, this doesn't include the four "bosses" sent to help stop you from attaining the wish from their boss, Calypso.

Sound like something out of this world? Well it's not. In fact it takes place in such locales as London, Hollywood, Washington D.C., Tokyo, Egypt, the North Pole, Hangar 18, plus a few other unsuspecting and innocent world capitals.

Did I mention the missiles, mortars, remote bombs, lightning, napalm, rain missiles, and a few other tricks with deadly impacts? There's also a machine gun and many, many special weapons as well as combination moves.

This obstacle course of terror comes courtesy of *Twisted Metal III*. The third installment of one of the most successful series takes the game to addictive levels of joy and emotional bliss that the other two could not quite achieve. How so? Well, like any sequel, new moves, weapons, and players have been added. It does not end there though. Add unparalleled realism, four player action, 3D environments, and truly amazing audio tracks from the likes of **Rob Zombie** and **Pitchsifter**, and you get the next evolution of the *Twisted Metal* series.

The trick to playing this game is simple. Go on the Internet and look for the codes to the game once you become frustrated with your own inability to conquer the game. This will be able to tell you the secrets of each of the levels, how to use the hidden players and how to start with any player on any level. Remember, this is cheating and you will not be able to enjoy the full glory of winning the *Twisted Metal* tournament unaided.

This game gives you a lot to think about. Mainly, what is your one wish going to be when you destroy all of your competition? Me, I would wish for *Twisted Metal* to continue on the groundbreaking road that the series is continuing along, and that the fourth installment offer even more to the player than the rest of the series combined. Yes it's a tall order, but it is *Twisted Metal* that we are talking about.

Format: *Playstation*
Recommendations: *Dual shock controller, pen and paper for the passwords, a few hours of time, and a little insanity.*
Rating: *I would miss 9.5 out of 10 classes to play this little piece of chaos and mayhem over and over and over again.*

A Good Day to Die

Joe Chan
Contributor

He can move and he can groove, but don't expect him to see with depth. Our hero of the day is Sir Daniel Fortesque and he's...well, a bit on the dead side. Daniel in his former life, was a knight, appointed to head the Royal Battalion. However, this was more of an honorary title.

During the battle between the kingdom of Gallowmere and Zarok the Sorcerer, the king was in desperation for a hero to save the kingdom. He called upon Sir Daniel Fortesque. Unfortunately, during the actual battle, he was hit by the very first arrow that was fired and it stuck him right through his eye. He died instantly. Gallowmere ultimately won, but in order to avoid such embaressment to the king for his choice in heroes, Sir Daniel Fortesque was hailed as a hero for killing Zarok in mortal combat. The evil wizard went into hiding and reappeared in the land of Gallowmere a hundred years later. Sir Daniel was then resurrected from the dead as a skeleton without an eye. This time around, Daniel will have to live up to his title and defeat the sinister wizard.

Sony Computer Entertainment America has released the game *Medievil*, and you control Sir Daniel as he works his way towards the evil sorcerer. Along the way, you pick up treasures, weapons, life bottles, chalices, kill monsters, dead zombies and bosses, solve mind-boggling puzzles, and overcome obstacles. The game is 3-D and the background is interactive. Within the game, there are numerous secrets that are worthwhile for the adventurer. For instance, striking a statue may be the key to opening a particular gate.

There are lots of different types of weapons in *Medievil*, ranging from the simple sword to the ricocheting crossbow. Certain weapons will be more effective on certain bosses and monsters. Some weapons have multiple purposes, such as the club, which breaks opens walls to reveal secret areas with treasures. As Sir Daniel travels in the world of Gallowmere, he will be picking up gold to buy better and more effective weapons from stone gargoyles.

The bosses in *Medievil* are creative and challenging, but not impossible. The graphics of this

game are incredible. The detail is exquisite. Everything works quite smoothly, however, camera angle is a bit annoying at times. With 3-D games these days, one just has to adjust the camera themselves at certain moments. There are many FMVs during this game. It adds more spice to the game and they fit into the story quite nicely. The sound is also spine-tingling and effective. It added to the atmosphere of the game and made it so much more enjoyable.

Finally, there is dual shock capability in *Medievil*. The makers of this game are working their magic to allow the game player to maximize their experience. They want you to see it, hear it, and now feel it! When you're hit by a monster, you can feel the shock. You can turn off that shock experience, but you will be missing out on a lot of that feeling.

Overall, this is an excellent game. I don't see too many flaws. However, the game would be even better if Sir Daniel had some more attack moves other than his basic slash, spin-o-rama slash, and his dash. Nevertheless, the game is definitely worth playing. Although Sir Daniel cannot see properly what with only one eye, he is waiting patiently for you to be his guide!

Format: *Playstation*
Our Recommendations: *Dual Shock controller, memory card*
Rating: *Clearly a good choice to kill some time. I would miss 8 out of 10 classes to get medieval on Zarok's ass.*

GROUNDWORK

Ivy League

Charles Mitchell
Staff

Episode 3

Autumn leaves shuffled and crunched beneath Constable Bill Patterson's feet as he approached the emergency phone on the trail leading to Ellesmere road.

He shook his head in mock disbelief as he approached the source of the call to the police station that had brought him there. "I should have known there was no trouble."

Amber replaced the emergency phone and leaned against the pole. "I had to figure out some way to get you here alone."

Bill Patterson was blandly attractive. He was 36 and recently divorced. He had been working on Scarborough Campus for five years now and had never met a female student quite like Amber. He couldn't fathom getting involved with an undergraduate. But this one tempted him beyond belief.

Amber rolled her fingers through her hair. "I needed to talk to you."

Bill glanced at her puzzlingly. "What about?"

"Brent's murder."

He folded his arms and stood and shook his head authoritatively. "You know I can't do that." He took a step back from her and threw her a quizzical look. "Why do you wanna know anyway?"

She moved closer to Bill and started playing with his jacket and rubbing her hands over the badge on his uniform.

Bill felt that familiar stirring. He started thinking back about the last time he had sex. Six months. He grabbed her hands and gently pushed them away. "Play nice, Amber." He folded his arms. "Now why do you want to know about Brent?"

"I'm just curious," she responded innocently.

Bill didn't have Amber figured out, but he did know that she always had an ulterior motive for everything. This girl was as brilliant as she was beautiful, and just as dangerous. He wasn't a fool; he knew a girl who looked like this couldn't possibly be interested in him. But since the divorce there had been no one else, and Amber made him feel like a man again. So she wanted to know about Brent's murder. There must be something in it for her. There was more to this than just curiosity. She was up to something. But he knew she would never tell him and he would never figure it out. In fact, solving this murder would be easier than solving the puzzle that was Amber Philmore. "I can't tell you. It's kinda under wraps."

"I won't tell anyone. I cross my heart," Amber promised, tracing a finger across the contours of her breasts.

Six months! Six months! His body wouldn't let him forget it.

She watched him as he stared at her cleavage. She had him. And they both knew it. Their eyes met and locked. Hers said give in.

So he did.

The smell of sweat hung in the air. The clanging of weights could barely be heard over the dance music blaring on the speakers. A typical day at the Key, the Campus weight room.

Bryan was oblivious to it all. He was on an exercise bike and was fixated on a young man doing French curls on the benches. Kevin Skyler. He had known him since grade seven. They had drifted apart over the years. Once, they had been very close friends. Now, their conversation consisted of small talk.

Kevin had really surprised him in high-school when he came out as being bisexual. Not that Bryan cared about Kevin's sexuality. As far he was concerned, everyone was inherently bisexual to some extent. But as Bryan expected most of the students in Western Collegiate had ignored or ridiculed the golden boy from that day. Since then, Kevin Skyler had become a loner.

"So what's up?" Amber got on the exercise bike beside Bryan. "Are you gonna finally tell me how we're gonna solve this murder?"

"What have you found out about Brent?" Bryan questioned, between deep breaths. He patted his forehead with a towel and took a sip of bottled water.

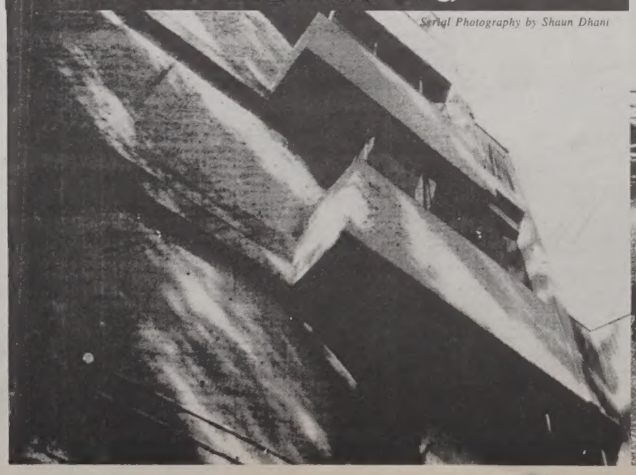
Amber raised a quizzical brow. "How did you know that I was snooping?"

Bryan grinned. "I know you too well. I knew what I said earlier would have you going to work. So, tell me everything you found out. What do the Police know about Brent's murder?"

continued next week

Obscured

Serial Photography by Shaun Dhani



MUSES

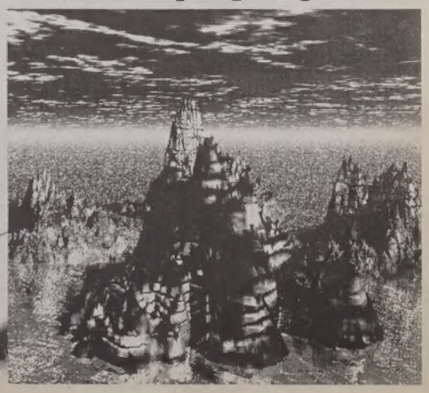
THE PRISONER

Risha A. Bahwanie
Staff

As i stare out beyond the tides
My soul becomes restless
And tired of dreaming alone
Desperately i search the skies
For your smile, perhaps hidden
Among the distant stars.
Hoping that it will make
My life worth living again
But it is dark
And i find no smile
Not even to bring a little comfort
To a prisoner soul
Rejected, my head hangs down
Not knowing where else to go
Stubbornly my soul persists
Slowly whispering your name
Yet the stars are silent
And instead a faint breeze
Mocks my romantic stupidity.
Could it be i wonder
That after a decade you are gone
Leaving not a trace of goodbye
Nor without explaining why?
All i remember
Is how you kept believing
"My life is one lonely road to success"
Somehow now lost and confused
My life seems to be a lonely road to
DEATH!
And without even demanding
My knees buckle
And my feet begin to simply
Run for the water
With my hands open outward
Ready to embrace and carress
That familiar icy coldness
And as the waves come
Crashing down on my head
Drowning out all my
Anguish and my sorrow
Instincts tell me
That my soul will be happier
As an innocent STAR
Beside the one you left
Twinkling in the black sky
Almost a decade ago!

Isles

Graphic design by Greg Brown



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ARTS

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Odds

you're not any less of a man

creamy and free

free cunnilingus
free cunnilingus
free cunnilingus

the voices in
my head
are urging me
to be myself

soft

if you don't pull the trigger

free cunnilingus
free cunnilingus
free cunnilingus

nice and easy ooo nice and easy

don't don't don't don't wait until tomorrow

creamy

you're not necessarily a man if you do

Real Astrology for an Unreal World

Aries March 20- April 19 My hamster chewed up my Medieval tarot cards, so now I have to wait until Christmas to get some more (hint, this would be a great gift for your favourite horoscope writer) I could give a reading with the few cards I have left, but that would be considered unfair.

Taurus April 30-May 20 Feeling stressed lately? You may ask how I know that. Maybe because everybody is feeling exactly the same way. I sat in my circle of candles and tried to call upon the forced of nature to find out how your week would be but not only am I too stressed to allow them to visit me, but the spirits are too stressed to even answer me! Next week maybe.

Gemini May 21- June 20 I was going to use my new Egyptian tarot cards to get a reading for you but I forgot that I left them in Egypt when I was in such a rush to get to the airport. I didn't want to be late to write these horoscopes. Canada customs probably wouldn't have let me bring them into the country anyway.

Cancer June 21- July 22 I haven't seen many stars out lately. It's really hard to read your destiny when all the city lights and smog obscure the view, unless you want an incomplete reading. But I will tell you something about the stars, this past week: there was a really neat shooting star show that could be seen much better in Asia.

Leo July 23 - August 22 The clay runes fell out of their little bag and broke; therefore, I cannot tell you anything about this week. You're going to have to wait until I can get some more shipped in from the United Kingdom. These runes are chipped by hand from clay hills by little elves, so they are a rare commodity that must be ordered a couple of weeks in advance.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 Since my hamster ate my tarot cards, I decided to used my psychic abilities, but because I'm so full of tension I've been unable to tap into the cosmic force. I went to see my really good psychic friend. Unfortunately, After climbing up the mountain to her house I found a note saying she had gone on vacation to Hungary.

Libra September 23 - October 22 My dog ate my horoscopes. I swear it's the truth! It takes too long to rewrite them and I have a deadline you know.

Scorpio October 23 - November 21 The planets are in a very weird alignment right now, but what I can tell you is that the sun still shines, the moon still glows at night, and the world still turns. Yup, life goes on, if you know what I mean.

Sagittarius November 22 - December 21 The planets have been rotating a lot lately, but recently they have stopped in a weird position and I'm still trying to figure out what it all means. I even got the trusty ancient Dark Ages manuscripts out. They do have something about it, but until I can get it translated from Latin to English I'm at a loss and so are you.

Capricorn December 22 - January 19 I've been busy fighting my own demons lately, sorry but they are pretty mean, big and green demons so I don't have much time for yours. I'm sure you'll get through this week just fine even without my timeless knowledge. Just look under the bed every night for your monsters, tell them to find a new hang-out.

Aquarius January 20 - February 18 Telepathy just doesn't work as well in cold weather as it usually does. I tried a few of the old Celtic traditions to give you a reading, but the ancient ones are too far way form me at the moment. When I go to Stonehenge next week I'll be sure to summon them for you.

Pisces February 19 - March 19 I've been beckoned to an ancient site for a very special gathering of my kind; therefore I cannot tell you what's going on for this week. When I come back I shall be renewed with the wisdom of the elder. You will just have to wait until then, patients is a virtue.

The Muppets make dreams come true. For me. And for you.

(Except Sam the Eagle, because he's a balding, nationalistic narcissist. He's also the Muppet of the Month.)

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